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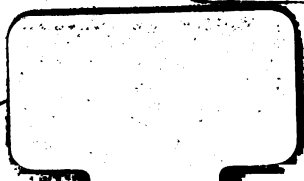


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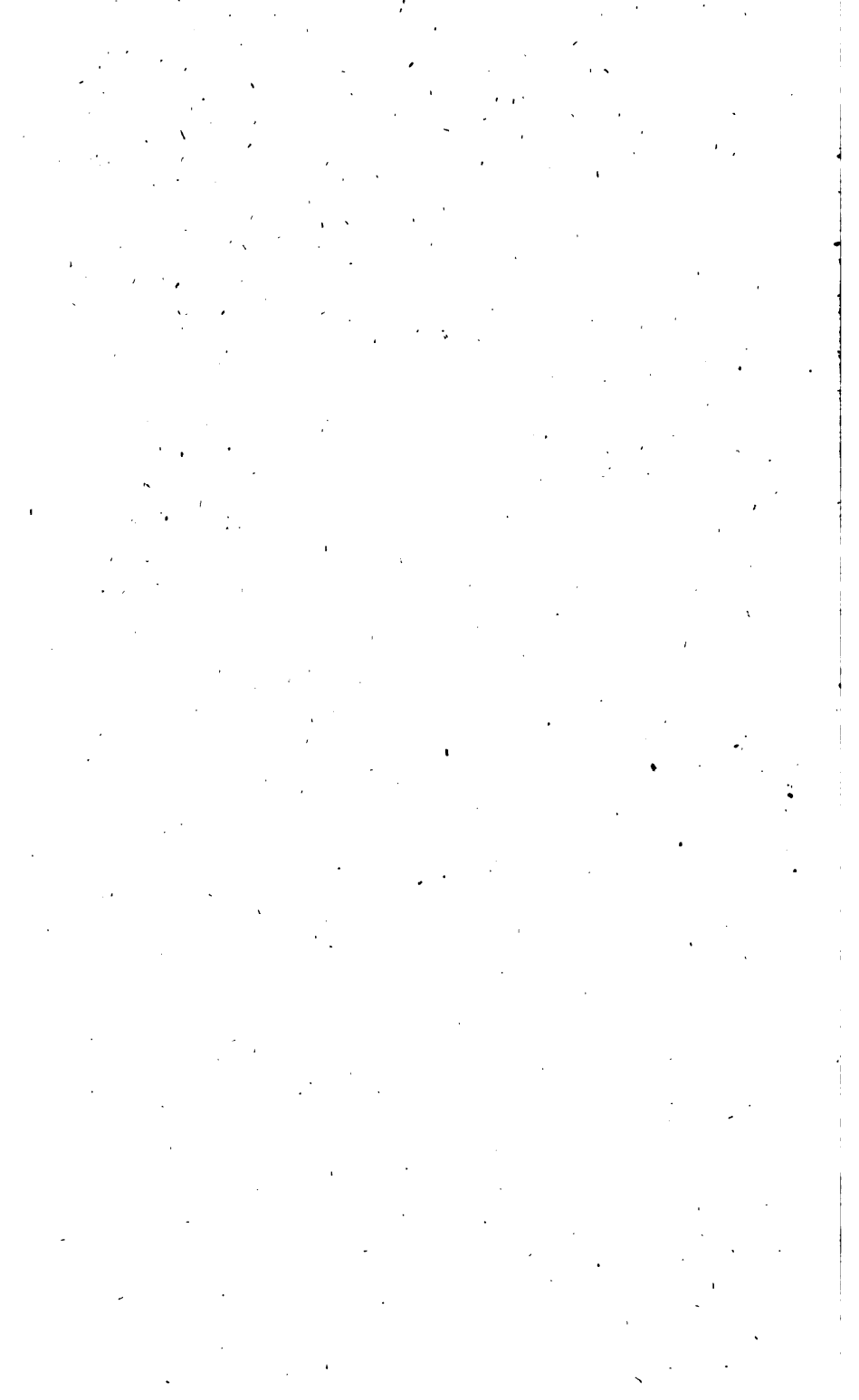
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A  
DESCRIPTIVE  
A C C O U N T  
OF THE  
I S L A N D  
OF  
*J A M A I C A.*

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VOLUME I.

***N.B.*** In the Introduction, all the calculations are in current money of the Island, excepting in the valuation of Negroes and Estates in the British Islands; and where *sterling* does not immediately succeed a sum, that sum is supposed to be of the currency of Jamaica, of which £.140 make £.100 sterling.

A  
DESCRIPTIVE  
ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
ISLAND  
OF  
*JAMAICA:*

WITH

Remarks upon the Cultivation of the SUGAR-CANE,  
throughout the different Seasons of the Year, and chiefly  
considered in a Picturesque Point of View;

ALSO

Observations and Reflections upon what would probably be  
the Consequences of an ABOLITION of the SLAVE-  
TRADE, and of the EMANCIPATION of the SLAVES.

By WILLIAM BECKFORD, Esq.

*Author of Remarks on the Situation of Negroes in Jamaica.*

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— “ Sine me, liber, ibis in urbem :  
“ Hei mihi ! quod domino non licet ire tuo.”

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IN TWO VOLUMES.  
VOLUME I.

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L O N D O N :

Printed for T. and J. EGERTON, *Whitehall.*

M,DCC,XC.



( i )

T O

H I S   G R A C E

The DUKE of *DORSET*,

EARL of *MIDDLESEX*, &c.

MY LORD!

YOUR Grace has  
given a very signal instance of con-  
descension and goodness, in per-  
mitting me to dedicate the follow-  
ing Work to that friendship which  
was the delight of my early days,  
the pride of my advancing years,  
and which has been a comfort to  
me in my present hours of mortifi-  
cation

cation and shame ;—of mortification, the consequence of imprudencies which I might have prevented, and of misfortunes which I could not foresee ;—of shame, in presuming to address you from a *place*, in which the miseries attached to it are too often considered, by the unfeeling, as the punishment of crimes, and the wages of guilt.

Humbled as I am, and almost depressed to the lowest condition of humanity, yet do I scorn to pay my court to the elevation of your *Grace*, when I have so much reason to extol the compassionate virtues of the *man*.

In you, my Lord ! the world beholds a striking example of dignity

nity unfulled by pride, of benevolence without ostentation ; and a rare instance of the most easy manners, and of the most refined accomplishments of life, without the least forgetfulness of what is praise-worthy and consistent.

Long may your Grace live a distinguished ornament to that circle in which you were born to move ! long live an object of imitation to those who wish to be pleasing from urbanity of manners, and respectable from an unaffected goodness of heart ! And may that honourable state into which you have lately entered with a Lady of beauty and worth, and under the most flattering auspices, be productive of

every comfort that can possibly result from the cement of confidence, from an unremitting study to consult, and to promote each other's happiness, and from a laudable ambition to exhibit a faithful picture of connubial fidelity, and domestic love !

I am, my LORD,

Your GRACE's very faithful,

Obliged, and grateful servant,

*W. Beckford.*

*London,  
February 3, 1790.*

## P R E F A C E.

**F**OR my presumption in intruding the following Work upon the patience of the Public, I have little to plead in my excuse, but the desire of employing some hours, which would have been otherwise consumed in sorrow and despondency, in a manner pleasing to myself, and inoffensive to society ; and in enforcing the situation and the work of a class of people, who are now become the objects of legislative discussion ; and whose bonds it is the interest of every planter to make easy, and whose burdens the duty of every writer, at all acquainted with their condition, to endeavour to render light.

For the digressions and reflections that occasionally arose in my mind, some apology should certainly be made, on account of their too frequent recurrence and prolixity ; but  
for

for them, and the errors and repetitions that may occur, I throw myself with confidence upon the liberal and the candid, who will make allowances, I doubt not, for situation, and who will overlook faults that my utmost care has not been able to remove. I have suffered many words to stand, which to a nice ear may seem to be rather too contiguous, and which I intended, at the first perusal, to erase ; but as repetitions will sometimes enforce, and on the other hand, will sometimes weaken, a sentence, I have therefore left them to abide a better judgement than my own.

I am aware that too many egotisms have found their way into the following pages ; but as many of them are chiefly narrative, I do not know how they could have been with propriety avoided : and if any words shall have occurred, that may appear to be too inflated for a pastoral description, I can only say that the fault is mine, if I have, for the elevated, mistaken the bombast ; and I shall consider myself essentially obliged to  
those

those who may expose my errors, correct my faults, sustain my weakness, and lower those expressions that may appear to be too aspiring.

It may be possibly said, that I have viewed the natural beauties of Jamaica through a partial medium, and that I have described them with a licentious pen; but in my justification I shall take the liberty to observe, that it was not my intention to deceive, and that I have only attempted to delineate what I have really seen, or what another, in the same situation, and with eyes unprejudiced, would likewise have beheld. As for the reflections that are interspersed throughout the work, they arose, and I hope not always inaptly, from the situation of my mind, and the impulse of the moment.

In my account of the sugar-cane, the description of the seasons, and the labours of the slaves, I have depended upon my own experience, unprofitable to myself,  
and

and not of much service, I fear, to the interests of others : and as I have argued from a conviction, and drawn the premises from a confession of errors, it is a proof at least that I have seen those faults which I acknowledge, and from the correction of which I hope that others may reap more certain and early profit than I have done.

In speaking of the treatment of negroes when confined by sickness, my observations are meant to apply to the better kinds, who are tractable and obedient, and to those who are patients in hospitals that are well attended, who are under the direction of overseers of humanity and judgement, and upon those properties upon which a regular-bred doctor makes a part of the plantation establishment. That the slaves upon estates of a different description are not always properly attended, and necessarily provided, is a fact, however insulting to the feelings, that cannot be well denied : but as a reformation in their private, as well as general management, has been for some years past proceed-

proceeding with a gradual step, I am willing to exhibit the practice of the humane, as an example to the unfeeling ; and I am rather disposed to attribute a common neglect to the indolence of custom, than to a depravity of heart.

The dispositions of many negroes are so very capricious, so hardened, and provoking, that the best tempers may be soured by contention, be inflamed by opposition, and be made severe by obstinacy ; and many people who have the command of slaves may have been apparently guilty of rigour, if not of cruelty, whose natures would rather have inclined them to forgive than punish : but the tricks that are constantly practised by the former, who are worthless and idle, are sufficient to make their superintendents cautious ; yet the infirmities to which they are subject should likewise make them compassionate and just.

My sentiments on the abolition of the slave-trade, or liberation of the negroes, I have unequivocally given ; and as they are

submitted to the judgement of the Public, to that respectable decision I am contented to appeal.

It was my wish, as a confirmation of the fidelity of the scenes which I have attempted to delineate, to have introduced engravings from some particular views of the Island that were taken on the spot, and their accuracy cannot be surely doubted when I quote, as the artist, the respectable name of Mr. Robertson, “ who (to borrow the elegant expression of a friend)

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“ could restore  
 “ The summer’s bloom, when summer bloom’d  
 no more.”

But for the failure of such an intention, a reason too obvious may, alas ! be given.

Of the *parishes* on the north side of the Island, which, as I have been informed, are full of picturesque beauty, I have been entirely silent, as I had not an opportunity to visit them : and if I have not dwelt more at large upon the local charms of  
 those

those with which I was acquainted, it has proceeded from an unwillingness to extend descriptions already prolix, and which may be more flattering to self-love, than they will be found amusing to others.

A more minute account might have been given of the manners of the white people ; but, as amongst large masses there will be consequently shadows, I did not wish to overcharge my picture with gloom ; for, although among the higher classes of society there are many characters that admit of brightness, yet the dregs of a community ought to be always left in their habitual darkness ; and of this order, below the mechanic, and the attendant of the field, there are but too many, either resident, or vagrant in the Island.

For the melancholy reflections that so frequently occur in the following pages, some excuse will be made, I trust, by those who may be generous enough to consider my situation ; and in this conclusion  
of

of a long preface, I should consider myself to be unjust, did I not bear a willing, as a pleasing testimony to the attention and kindness I have experienced in this house of humiliation and misery ; and which, in my days of prosperity, I might not have been able to purchase : but as I do not wish to remember the injuries I may have received, so am I likewise unwilling to forget (whatever may have been said to the contrary) the obligations that I owe.

*Fleet,*  
*February, 1790.*

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## ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following sheets, reprinted from the Jamaica Almanack, with a few explanatory observations excepted, are not meant to swell the size of the volume ; but are merely introduced as particulars to which the reader may refer, who wishes to obtain any information respecting the present state of the Island.

INTRO-

## INTRODUCTION.

**JAMAICA**, one of the richest jewels in the crown of Great-Britain, was discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1493. In his second voyage to the West-Indies, he changed the name Jamaica to Saint Jago; which it retained during the time it continued in the possession of the Spaniards, upwards of 160 years.

In 1654, Penn and Venables, being sent by Cromwell with a force to attempt the conquest of Hispaniola, and having failed, directed their course to Jamaica, where they arrived in May, 1655; and the Spaniards flying before them, the conquest of the Island was soon achieved.

Jamaica is situate between  $17^{\circ} 44'$  and  $18^{\circ} 34'$  north latitude, and  $75^{\circ} 51'$  and  $80^{\circ} 22'$  west longitude; being about 150 miles in length, and 60 miles in breadth, at the broadest part.

GRAND

## GRAND DIVISIONS of the ISLAND.

Counties	{	MIDDLESEX.
		SURRY.
		CORNWALL.

## M I D D L E S E X.

The county of Middlesex contains about 1,305,235 acres; and has 8 parishes, and 15 towns or villages, viz.

PARISHES.	Rector's Annual Stipend.	TOWNS.	VILLAGES.
St. Catharine . .	300£.	{ St. Jago de la Viega, or Spanishtown. . . Old Harbour	{ Port Henderson. Passage-fort Market.
St. Dorothy . .	200		
St. John . .	200		
St. Thomas in the Vale } .	200		
Clarendon . .	250	. . . .	{ Crofs. Chapel.
Vere . . .	200	. . . .	Carlisle-bay.
St. Mary , .	200	Port Maria .	{ Rio Nuevo. Scott's Hall, a negro town. Salt Gut.
St. Ann . .	200	St. Ann . .	{ Laughlands. Runaway-bay.

**SAINT CATHARINE.** St. Jago de la Vega, the county-town of Middlesex, and the metropolis of the Island, commonly called Spanish-town, stands in  $18^{\circ} 1'$  north latitude, and  $76^{\circ} 45'$  west longitude, about a mile in length, and little more than a quarter of a mile in breadth; contains between 500 and 600 houses, and about 4000 inhabitants of all colours and denominations. This town is situate in a delightful plain, on the banks of the Rio Cobre, 13 miles from Kingston, and 10 from Port-Royal. It is the residence of the Commander in Chief: and here the Supreme Court of Judicature is held, four times in the year, viz. on the last Tuesdays in February, May, August, and November, and sits three weeks,

The village of Passage-fort is about six miles from Spanish-town; contains about 12 houses, and is a considerable barguadier, or shipping-place, for the parishes of St. Catharine, St. Thomas in the Vale, and St. John.

Port

Port Henderson, about three miles from Passage-fort, and six from Spanish-town, has of late grown into a considerable village, and greatly outrivals Passage-fort as a shipping-place for the adjacent parishes ; and, as vessels can approach nearer to the wharf than at the former place, it is likely to preserve the superiority it has attained.

In this parish there are 11 sugar-plantations, 108 pens, and other settlements, and about 10,000 slaves.

SAINT DOROTHY. The town of Old Harbour contains about 30 houses ; several ships load there for Great-Britain, as the harbour is safe and commodious ; and there the Spaniards formerly moored their galleons.

There are in this parish 18 sugar-plantations, 70 pens, and other settlements, and above 5000 slaves.

SAINT THOMAS IN THE VALE contains upwards of 48 sugar-works, 47 other settlements, and 8,800 slaves.

CLARENDON. The villages of the Cross and Chapel contain about 10 houses each. The parish-church is at the former; and there is a chapel of ease, which gives name to the latter.

In this parish are 78 sugar-works, 200 other settlements, and 16,800 slaves.

VERE. The village of Carlisle-bay, so called in honour of an Earl of Carlisle, formerly Governor of this Island, does not boast of more than 12 or 15 houses. It is however remarkable for a descent made here by Monsieur Ducasse, Governor of Hispaniola, with three ships of war, 23 transports, and 1500 men, in June, 1694. On the 18th, Monsieur Ducasse anchored in the bay; and the next day, in the morning, he landed between 1400 and 1500 men, who proceeded to the attack of a breast-work, which Sir William Beeston, then Governor of the Island, had caused to be thrown up hastily, near the shore. Two hundred militia defended this post gallantly  
for

for a considerable time ; but, finding they could not maintain it, retreated in good order, after killing several of the enemy, though with the loss of some of their own officers. At this time, the arrival of some reinforcements of the neighbouring militia gave a turn to affairs ; and the French were very soon obliged to retreat to their shipping, in which they sailed to Hispaniola on the 24th of the same month, having lost upwards of 700 men. On the part of the brave militia 100 were killed and wounded.

There are in this parish 23 sugar-works, 136 other settlements, and 6,700 slaves.

**SAINT MARY.** The town of Port Maria consists of about 25 houses.

The villages of Rio Nuevo and Salt-Gut have from 10 to 12 houses each, chiefly inhabited by wharfingers and shop-keepers ; and are, as well as Port-Maria, commodious shipping-places.

This parish contains 80 sugar-works, 120 other settlements, and 18,000 slaves.

**SAINT ANN.** The town of St. Ann consists of about 40 houses, straggling along the bay; which is an excellent harbour for shipping, being defended by a reef of rocks that stretches almost across its entrance.

The villages of Laughlands and Run-away-bay are so small as scarcely to deserve that name.

In this parish there are 42 sugar-plantations, 188 other settlements, and above 16,000 slaves.

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The whole number of settlements, slaves, cattle, and the annual produce of the sugar-estates, in this county, are :—sugar-plantations, 323, which produce annually 29,000 hogsheds; other settlements, 922; negroes, 87,100; cattle, 75,000.

**SURRY.**

## S U R R Y.

THE county of Surry contains 672,616 acres; and has seven parishes, and 12 towns and villages, viz.

PARISHES.	Rector's Annual Stipend.	TOWNS.	VILLAGES.
Kingston . .	250 <i>£</i> .	Kingston . .	
Port Royal . .	100	Port-Royal . .	
St. Andrew . .	200	. . . . .	Halfway-tree.
St. David. . .	100	. . . . .	Yallahis.
St. Thomas in the East	250	{ Morant-bay } { Port Morant }	Bath.
Portland . .	100	Titchfield	{ Manchioneal. Moore, a ne- gro town.
St. George . .	100	. . . . .	{ Annotto-bay. Charles-town, a negro town.

**KINGSTON.** The town of Kingston was founded in the year 1693, when the repeated desolations, by earthquake and fire, had driven the inhabitants from Port-Royal. It extends a mile from north to south, and about as much from east to west, on the harbour. It contains about  
3000

3000 houses, besides negro-houses and warehouses. The number of white inhabitants is about 8000 ; of free people, of colour, 1500 ; and of slaves, about 14,000. It is the county-town, where the assizes are held, in January, April, July, and October, and last about a fortnight.

This parish contains no sugar-plantations, and only 20 settlements, which are grass-pens.

**SAINT ANDREW.** The village of Half-way-tree, about two miles and a half from Kingston, contains no more than 16 or 18 houses. There is a genteel new room here, where assemblies are frequently held.

In St. Andrew are 25 sugar-estates, 129 other settlements, and 12,000 slaves.

**PORT-ROYAL.** The town of Port-Royal, once a place of the greatest riches and importance in the West-Indies, is now reduced, by repeated calamities, to three  
streets,

streets, a few lanes, and about 200 houses. It contains the Royal navy-yard, for heaving down and refitting the King's ships; the navy-hospital, and barracks for a regiment of soldiers. The fortifications, which are very extensive, being in excellent order, and having been lately strengthened with many additional works, it may be said to vie, in point of strength, with any fortress in the King's dominions.

This parish has three sugar-works, 21 other settlements, and about 2,500 slaves.

**SAINT DAVID.** The village of Yallah's Bay consists only of a few scattered houses near the church.

The parish contains 11 sugar-works, 55 other settlements, and about 3,500 slaves.

**SAINT THOMAS IN THE EAST.** Bath, remarkable for the salubrity of its waters, contains not more than 18 houses.

Morant-

Morant-bay, a very considerable shipping-place, has above 50 houses, and is rapidly enlarging.

Port Morant is also a considerable village, and has a fine deep harbour.

There are in this parish 188 sugar-estates, 130 other settlements, and 29,000 slaves.

PORTLAND. Port Antonio, or Titchfield, has a most excellent harbour for shipping; but does not contain more than 30 houses.

Manchioneal harbour is capacious and secure; and the parish is settling very fast.

In this large parish are only 69 sugar-works, 97 other settlements, and 10,800 slaves.

SAINT GEORGE, the last parish in this county. It has no town or village but  
Annotto-

Annotto-bay, a barguadier, or shipping-place; and a negro, or maroon town, called Charles-town.

There are 19 sugar-works, 88 other settlements, and 5,800 slaves.

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In the whole county of Surry are 350 sugar-works, 540 other settlements, 75,600 slaves, and about 80,000 cattle.

**CORNWALL.**

## C O R N W A L L.

THE county of Cornwall contains 1,522,149 acres; has five parishes, and 10 towns or villages, viz.

PARISHES.	Rector's Annual Stipend.	TOWNS.	VILLAGES.
St. Elizabeth.	200£.	{ Lacovia Black River }	Accompong, a negro town.
Westmoreland	250	{ Savanna-la- Mar, county town. }	
Hanover .	200	Lucea.	
St. James . .	200	Montego-bay.	
Trelawny . .	200	{ Martha Brae Falmouth }	Trelawny, a ne- gro town.

**SAINT ELIZABETH.** The town of Lacovia does not contain more than 20 houses. Here the quarter-sessions and petty court for the parish are held.

Black-River has about 50 houses, and a fine bay for shipping.

This

This parish has 31 sugar-works, 190 other settlements, and 16,000 slaves.

**WESTMORELAND.** Savanna-la-Mar is the county-town, where the assize-courts are held for the county of Cornwall, the last Tuesdays in March, June, September, and December. It has lately been ornamented by an elegant court-house, and contains about 100 other houses.

In this parish are 89 sugar-estates, 106 other estates, and 18,000 slaves.

**HANOVER.** Lucea boasts of one of the securest harbours in the world, and contains about 40 or 50 houses.

There are 81 sugar-works, 65 other settlements, and near 16,000 slaves in Hanover.

**SAINT JAMES.** Montego - bay, the capital of this parish, and, next to Kingston, the most flourishing town in the Island,  
contains

contains above 350 houses; and carries on a very considerable commerce with Great-Britain, and our remaining colonies in North America. The harbour is capacious; but rather exposed to the north winds, which, at certain times in the year, blow with great violence.

In this parish are 70 sugar-plantations, 70 other settlements, and 27,000 slaves.

TRELAWNY. The towns of Martha-Brae and Falmouth contain each about 80 houses.

This parish has 69 sugar-estates, near 90 other settlements, and about 16,000 slaves.

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In the whole county of Cornwall are—388 sugar-plantations, 561 other settlements, above 93,000 slaves; the produce in sugar, about 67,000 hogsheds; and about 69,500 cattle.

A General

## A GENERAL STATE of the whole ISLAND:

Counties.	Sugar Estates.	Other Settle- ments.	Slaves.	Produce. Hhds. of Sugar.	Cattle.
Middlesex	323	917	87100	31500	75000
Surry . .	350	540	75600	34900	80000
Cornwall .	388	561	90000	39000	69500
Total	1061	2018	255700	105400	224500

It should be here observed, that, where two hogsheads of sugar are made, there is at least one puncheon of rum; but the proportion has been of late years more considerable: the quantity of the latter will therefore be 52,700 puncheons.

Twenty parishes, 36 towns and villages, 18 churches and chapels, and about 23,000 white inhabitants.

Note. The duty upon sugar is 12s. per cwt. and a 4 per cent. on the amount of that duty.

The duty upon rum is 4s. per gallon.

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The

( xxx )

The average weight of a hoghead of sugar, at the King's beam, is about 12 cwt.

A puncheon of rum, at the King's beam, contains from 90 to 100 gallons.

**A comparative View of the PROPERTY, and Produce of SUGAR, in this Island, in the years 1768 and 1786.**

	MIDDLESEX		SURRY		CORNWALL		Total in		Amount of Increase.
	1768	1786	1768	1786	1768	1786	1768	1786	
Sugar Estates	239	323	146	350	266	388	651	1061	410
Sugar Hhds.	24050	31500	15010	34900	29100	39000	68160	105400	37240
Negroes	66744	87100	39542	75600	60614	93000	166900	255700	88800
Cattle	59510	75000	21465	80000	54775	69500	135750	224500	88750

From the above scheme it appears, how considerable has been the increase of sugar-estates, and consequently of produce, of negroes and cattle, in eighteen years: and in the same portion of time, if proper encouragement were given, they might be augmented in a threefold proportion..

Valuation

## Valuation of NEGROES and ESTATES in the British Islands.

450,000 Negroes, at £.50 per head	—	£. 22,500,000
The land that is cultivated by their labour, with the buildings, &c. may be reasonably doubled	— — — — — } 45,000,000	
Waste lands, towns, and houses	— — — — —	2,500,000
		<u>£. 70,000,000</u>

## The common Valuation of an ESTATE.

Cane land (the canes upon it va- lued separately)	— — — — —	} at 22£. sterl. per acre.	
Plants	— — — — —	22	ditto.
Cane land, in ratoons and young plants	— — — — —	15	ditto.
Pasture land	— — — — —	8	ditto.
Wood land	— — — — —	4	ditto.
Provisions	— — — — —	14	ditto.
Negroes	— — — — —	57	ditto.
Mules	— — — — —	22	ditto.
Steers	— — — — —	10	ditto.
Breeding cattle, &c.	— — — — —	5	ditto.
Works, water, carts, &c.	— — — — —	from 7 to 10,000.	

If a planter would wish to lease his estate  
for a number of years, his income would  
be large if he could get only 10d. sterling a

day for his negroes (the loss made good), without requiring any thing for his land or works.

**LIST of the principal OFFICERS, &c.  
with their Salaries.**

Lieutenant-Governor and Commander in Chief, £.5000 currency, or £.3571 8s. 6½d. besides which, he has a house in Spanish-town, a pen, or a farm, adjoining; and a polink, or mountain for provisions: a Secretary, an Under-Secretary, and a Domestic Chaplain.

The Honourable the Council consists of a President and ten Members.

Clerk, £.270, Chaplain, £.100, Usher of the Black Rod, and Messenger, £.250.

The Honourable the Assembly, of Forty-three Members, one of whom is chosen Speaker.

Clerk,

( xxxiii )

Clerk, £.1000, Chaplain, £.150, Messenger, £.700, Deputy, £.140, Printer, £.200.

The number of MEMBERS returned by each Parish and County.

MIDDLESEX, 17.	SURRY, 16.	CORNWALL, 10.
St. Catharine 3	Kingston — 3	St. Elizabeth — 2
St. Dorothy — 2	Port-Royal — 3	Westmoreland 2
St. John — 2	St. Andrew — 2	Hanover — 2
St. Thomas in the	St. David — 2	St. James — 2
Vale — 2	St. Thomas in the	Trelawny — 2
Clarendon — 2	East — 2	
Vere — 2	Portland — 2	
St. Mary — 2	St. George — 2	
St. Ann — 2		

THE HIGH COURT OF CHANCERY.  
Chancellor (Governor for the time being); twenty - five Masters in ordinary, and twenty Masters extraordinary ; a Register, and Clerk of the Patents; Serjeant at Arms, and Mace-bearer.

THE COURT OF VICE ADMIRALTY  
has a sole Judge, Judge Surrogate and  
b 3 Com-

Commissary, King's Advocate, Principal Register, Marshal, and a Deputy Marshal.

THE COURT OF ORDINARY. Ordinary (the Governor for the time being), and a Clerk.

THE SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE has a Chief Justice, £.120, and sixteen Assistant Judges; Attorney-General, £.400; Clerk of the Courts, £.100; Clerk of the Crown, £.350; Solicitor for the Crown; thirty-three Commissioners for taking Affidavits; a Provost Marshal General, and eight Deputies; eighteen Barristers, besides the Attorney-General and Advocate-General; and upwards of one hundred and twenty practising Attornies at Law.

FORTS,

FORTS, FORTIFICATIONS, and PUBLIC BUILDINGS, with the OFFICERS belonging to the same.

Commissioners. The Commander in Chief, and the Members of the Council and of the Assembly.

And a Clerk, £.150.

Supervisor, and Inspector-General of the Public works, £.700.

Engineer, and Surveyor of the Harbours, £.182 10s.

Superintendents of Forts, two; one for Windward, and one for North side.

#### OFFICERS of FORTS.

MIDDLESEX, Fort Augusta	—	1 Captain, £. 182 10s.	
		1 Lieutenant	91 5
		Gunner and Storekeeper,	£. 100.
Apoifle's Battery	—	1 Captain,	1 Lieut.
Henderfon's Battery	—	1 —	1 —
Johnston's Battery	—	1 —	1 —
Small's Battery	—	1 —	1 —

Post at Sixteen-mile Walk — Commandant, 1 Lieut,  
 West Chester Battery, St. Do- }  
 rothy's — — — } 1 Captain.

Fort Haldane, St. Mary's 1 ——— 2 Lieut,

Salt-Gut Battery, St. Mary's 1 ——— 1 ———

Oracabessa Fort, St. Mary's — 1 ———

St. Ann's Fort — — — 1 ——— 2 ———

Fort Columbus, Dry Harbour 1 ——— 1 ———

Fort William, St. Ann's 1 ——— 2 ———

Town Gully Batteries, St. Ca- }  
 tharine's — — — } 1 ——— 1 ———

SURRY, Fort Charles, Port-Royal, Governor, £. 657. De-  
 puty Gov. £. 109 10s.  
 1 Lieut. £. 82 2s. 6d.  
 Master Gunner.

Rock Fort — — — 1 Captain, £. 182 10s.  
 2 Lieutenants.

Captain Commandant.  
 First Fort Major, Second  
 Fort Major.

Batt. on Stony hill. { East's Battery — — — 1 Captain, 3 Lieuts.

Hall's Battery — — — 1 ——— 2 ———

Wallen's Battery — — — 1 ——— 2 ———

Moore's Battery — — — 1 ——— 2 ———

Fort George, Port Antonio 1 ——— £. 182 10s.  
 1 Lieutenant.

Ferry Fort and Works — — — 1 Captain.

Fort Dalling, Rocky Point — 1 ——— 1 Lieut,

Pera and Bowden-hill Batteries, }  
 St. Thomas in the East — } 1 ——— 3 ———

Whydah Battery, Portland — 1 ——— 1 ———

Fort Richmond, Portland — 1 ——— 1 ———

Annotto-bay Fort — — — 1 ———

CORNWALL,

CORNWALL, Fort Dalling, Tre-	}	1	Captain,	2	Lieuts.
lawny					
Martha Brae Fort	—	1	—	First and Se-	
				cond Lieutenants.	
Fort George, Westmoreland	—	1	Captain,	1	Lieut.
Fort Dalling, Westmoreland	1	—	1	—	
Fort Frederick, St. James	1	—	1	—	
Fort George, St. James	—	1	—	1	—
Fort Charlotte, Lucea.	—	1	—	£. 182 10s.	
				1 Lieutenant.	
Davis's Cove	—	1	Captain,		
Green-Island Fort	—	1	—	1	Lieut.
Savanna-la-Mar Fort	—	1	—	1	Capt. en se-
				cond, 2 Lieutenants.	
Black-River Fort	—	1	Captain,	1	Lieut.

## POST-ROADS throughout the Island.

### South Side Post-Road to Lucea.

Kingston to	Dist. between each town.	Total Dist. from King- ton.
Spanish-town —	13	13
Old Harbour —	12	12
Clarendon —	12	37
Lambeth —	37	74
Lacovia —	13	87
Black River —	13	100
Parker's bay	10	110
Savanna-la-Mar	14	124
Lucea —	25	149

### North Side Post-Road to Montego-bay.

Kingston to	Dist. between each town.	Total Dist. from King- ton.
Spanish-town —	13	13
Rodney-hall —	12	25
Salt Gut —	28	53
White River —	16	69
St. Ann's —	14	83
Rio Bueno —	20	103
Martha Brae —	17	120
Montego-bay	25	145

North

North Side Post-Road to Port Maria.      Windward Post-Road to Portland.

Kingston to	Dist. between each town.	Total Dist. fr. Kingston.	Kingston to	Dist. between each town.	Total Dist. fr. Kingston.
Annotto-bay —	30	30	Yallah's-bay —	20	20
Port Maria —	15	45	Petersfield —	6	26
			Morant-bay —	5	31
			Port Morant harb. —	7	38
			Bath —	6	44
			Amity-hall —	7	51
			Manchioneal —	9	60
			Portland —	11	71

The Post sets out from Kingston to

Windward, at 12 o'clock, noon	} Saturdays,
North Side, at 3 ——— afternoon	
South Side, at 6 ——— evening	

*N.B.* The bags for Salt Gut, Port Maria, Annotto-bay, Buff-bay, Titchfield, and Port Antonio, depart with the Windward Post.

A Post sets out from Kingston to Spanish-town on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, at 7 o'clock in the morning, and from thence to Kingston at 2 in the afternoon of the same days.

## A Table of the RATES of POSTAGE in Jamaica.

	Dist. not exceeding 60 Engl. Miles.			Above 60 to 100 Engl. miles.			Above 100 to 200 Engl. miles.		
	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>Ryal.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>Ryal.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>Ryal.</i>
Single Letter	0	7½	or 1	0	7½	or 1	1	3	or 2
Double —	1	3	2	1	3	2	1	10½	3
Treble —	1	3	2	1	10½	3	2	6	4
Ounce —	1	10½	3	2	6	4	3	9	6

And in proportion for every additional ounce weight.

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Seventeen packet-boats are employed in carrying the mails between Falmouth and the West-Indies.

These mails are made up at, and dispatched from, the General Post-Office in London, the first and third Wednesday in every month; and the packet-boats generally sail from Falmouth the Sunday or Monday following.

## A Table of the FEES of the GOVERNOR'S SECRETARY.

For every commission of General to serve in the Militia of this Island	_____	_____	£. s. d.
			30 0 0
For every commission of Colonel	_____		21 0 0
_____ Lieutenant-Colonel	_____		15 15 0
_____ Major	_____		11 0 0
_____ Captain	_____		5 10 0
_____ Lieutenant	_____		2 15 0
_____ Ensign	_____		2 15 0
_____ Adjutant	_____		2 15 0
_____ Deputy Adjutant, or Quarter-Master General	_____		2 15 0
For every commission of Quarter-Master	_____		2 15 0
_____ Barrack-Master General, and of Deputy Barrack-Master General, each	_____		2 15 0
For every commission of Muster-Master General, and of Deputy Muster-Master General, each	_____		2 15 0
For every commission of Aide-de-Camp to the Commander in Chief	_____		21 0 0
For every commission of Aide-de-Camp to any General of Militia	_____		10 10 0
For every commission of Captain of a Fort	_____		20 0 0
_____ Lieutenant of a Fort	_____		15 0 0
_____ warrant, or appointment of Quarter Gunner of a Fort	_____		10 0 0
For every commission of Island Engineer	_____		10 0 0
_____ Armourer	_____		2 15 0
_____ Privateer's commission	_____		12 10 0

The

	£.	s.	d.
The Harbour-Master of Kingston	10	0	0
Every other Harbour-Master	2	15	0
An Interpreter of any foreign language	2	15	0
A Judge Advocate General	5	10	0
A Deputy Judge Advocate General	5	10	0
Physician or Surgeon General	21	0	0
An order to a Minister to publish in church, a person's intention to apply for a private Act	2	15	0
A presentation to a benefice	10	0	0
A Surveyor's commission	10	0	0
An order for surplusage land	5	0	0
A fiat for land on the Quit-Rent Act	5	10	0
Each special order for land	5	0	0
Every common order for land	2	10	0
An order for foot land in Titchfield	2	15	0
Every fiat for land	2	10	0
Letters of preference to an escheat	10	0	0
Every fiat on letters of preference for an escheat	5	0	0
Every fiat for a writ to elect a Coroner	5	0	0
Every leave of absence to Members of his Majesty's Council	5	0	0
Each foreign let-pafs	5	0	0
Every patent of naturalization	12	10	0
Every warrant for a pilot	5	0	0
Every commission of Custos Rotulorum	20	0	0
Magistrate or Justice of the Peace, when by writ of association, but not otherwise	5	0	0
The commission of Chief Justice of the Grand Court	50	0	0
The commission of Assistant Judge of the Grand Court, when by writ of association, but not otherwise	10	0	0

The

The commission of Assistant Judge, or Justice for the Surry and Cornwall Assize Courts, when by writ of association, but not other- wise	£. s. d. 10 0 0
The commission of Chief Justice of Common Pleas	10 0 0
The commission of Assistant Judge of Common Pleas, when by writ of association, but not otherwise	5 0 0
The commission, or appointment of a Master in ordinary in Chancery	25 0 0
The commission, or appointment of a Master extraordinary in Chancery	15 0 0
The commission, or appointment of Superin- tendent of Maroons	20 0 0
Flags of truce	20 0 0

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**A Table of the LEGAL FEES paid at the  
respective Offices for Entering and Clear-  
ing VESSELS.**

**To the COLLECTOR.**

For entering or clearing each sloop or schooner, trading to and from this Island, having a cargo on board, registering the company of such vessels, granting permit to load or unload, and for all other services respecting such entrance or clearance, not hereinafter mentioned	£. s. d. 1 10 0
	For

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	£.	s.	d.
For every brig, snow, bark, or ship	2	10	0
For a new register	2	0	0
For endorsing a register	0	12	9
For each coffee certificate, for coffee exported to Great-Britain	0	7	6
For each certificate to cancel bonds for all or such part of the cargo as may be required	0	12	6
For cancelling, by certificate, each bond grant- ed here	0	5	0
For a bill of stores	0	3	6
For a post entry	0	7	6
For long-boat papers	0	7	6
For entering or clearing a drogger, every ser- vice included	0	2	6
For entering into the non-enumerated bond	0	2	6
For every Isle-of-Man bond	0	2	6

To the COMPTROLLER.

One third of the sums above specified, except for coffee certificates, for which he is entitled to receive the same fee as the Collector.

To the SECRETARY.

	£.	s.	d.
For entering each vessel, taking the bond, granting certificate to the naval officer, also administering the oath respecting the carry- ing slaves from this Island, and all other ser- vices	1	5	0
For the let-pafs and clearing each vessel	0	15	0
For every fort-pafs	0	2	6
For			

For every drogging-pass, to regular droggers only, to be taken out every six months	£. s. d.
	1 2 6
For each ship's register	1 5 0
For entering each protest	1 5 0
For taking out each protest	0 12 6

### To the NAVAL OFFICER.

For entering all vessels from Great-Britain and Ireland, examining and recording certificate that bonds are given according to the Act of Navigation, and examining all cockets, bills of stores, and certificate of the freedom of the ship; and taking an account of the same, together with all goods that are liable to duty; and certifying the same, with the marks, numbers, and packages, to the Collector and Receiver General; and making out quarterly lists of the same, to his Majesty's Board of Trade	2 10 6
For clearing all vessels, as above	2 0 0
For entering all vessels from North America and the Spanish main, in the same manner as above	1 5 0
For clearing ditto as above	1 10 0
For clearing all vessels trading round the Island	0 2 6
For a plantation bond, certificate of ditto to the Collector, and cancelling same	1 15 7½
For endorsing a register	0 6 3
For signing under seal of office, and recording a new register	1 5 0
For a warrant of survey, return, and recording	1 15 7½

To

**To the RECEIVER GENERAL.**

For entering or clearing all vessels whatever, having a cargo on board from a foreign voyage; or going on one, every service in- cluded	_____	_____	o 13 4
For each drogger, entering and clearing	—	o 2 6	
For every bond required by law	_____	o 5 6	

**To the LAND and TIDE SURVEYOR.**

For every vessel entering or clearing, having a cargo on board (droggers excepted), every service included	_____	—	o 10 0
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**To the Office of WAITER and SEARCHER.**

For each vessel, and in full of all services	—	o 10 0
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**N. B.** For vessels clearing-out in ballast, with only the necessary stores and provisions on board; one half of the above fees are to be paid; and as to all vessels passing from a port of entry, to any other port or place in this Island, in order to unload or compleat their discharge, and take

a cargo on board, a drogging pass is to be granted, on payment of the legal fees for droggers.

**DUTIES ON GOODS IMPORTED, imposed  
by the perpetual Revenue Act, and  
payable at the Receiver General's Office.**

	£.	s.	d.
On every ton of Spanish and Madeira wines	6	0	0
———— wines from the Azores, or Western Islands, or mixture of Madeira with them	12	0	0
On every ton of French, Rhenish, or Portugal wines	5	0	0
On every gallon of brandy, arrack, or other spirits	0	1	6
On every ton of cask or bottled beer, ale, or cyder	2	0	0
On every ton of mum or metheglin	3	0	0
———— pound weight of refined sugar	0	0	6
———— cwt. of muscovado or paneel sugar	3	0	0
———— pound weight of tobacco	0	0	4
———— hundred pounds weight of ginger	0	15	0
———— pound weight of indico	0	0	3
———— cotton	0	0	3
———— cwt. of cocoa imported by vessels of this Island	0	15	0
On every cwt. of cocoa imported by vessels not belonging to the Island	1	0	0
Other			

# Other DUTIES payable at the same Office.

	£.	s.	d.
On every negro imported into the Island, 10s.			
and on the sale, 20s.	1	10	0
The duty of gunpowder on all vessels coming from any place to the northward of the Tropic of Cancer ——— per ton	0	1	6
Ditto on ditto from the southward of the Tropic of Cancer, once in every year only, ——— per ton	0	1	6
Tonnage-duty on ditto ——— per ton	0	0	6

## A TABLE of RATES to which the WHARFAGE and STORAGE LAW of 1784 refers.

	£.	d.
For each anvil ——— ——— ———	2	6
For every dozen of hoes, bills, and axes, loose	0	7½
——— barrel of tar and pitch ———	0	7½
——— barrel of beef, pork, and flour ———	0	5
——— barrel of herrings ——— ———	0	7½
——— bag of feathers ——— ———	0	7½
——— bag of ginger, under 100 weight ———	0	4
——— bag of pimento ——— ———	0	7½
——— small bale, 200 lb. and under ———	1	3
——— middling bale, from 200 to 400 lb.	2	6
——— very large bale ——— ———	5	0
——— small beaufet ——— ———	2	6
——— large ditto ——— ———	5	0
c 2		For

	s.	d.
For every butt	0	5
small box of glass	2	6
large ditto	5	0
four boxes of soap or candles	0	10
box of dry goods	1	3
ton of bar. iron	5	0
100 of iron hoops, and in proportion for a greater or less number	0	7½
bundle of wain tyre	1	3
four packs of punchcon-staves	0	7½
bundle of leather	0	7½
1000 of bricks	5	0
bureau	2	6
chest of bacon	1	3
chest of arms	5	0
chest of medicines, if small	5	0
ditto, if large	10	0
chest of drawers	5	0
chest of soap	2	6
small chest of oil	0	7½
large ditto	1	3
case of dry goods, according to size, from 1s. 3d. to	7	6
case of iron ware under 500 lb.	1	3
ditto, above 500 lb.	2	6
four cases of pickles	0	7½
feroon, or bag of cocoa	1	3
chura chest of cheese	0	7½
eight cheeses not in chests	0	7½
four small tubs of cheese	0	7½
two large tubs of ditto	0	7½
crate of earthen-ware, according to size, from 1s. 3d. to	5	0

For

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			£.	s.	d.
For every coil of cordage, according to size,					
	from 7d $\frac{1}{2}$ to	—	0	5	0
—	cable, according to size, from 10s.				
	to	—	1	10	0
—	coach	—	1	5	0
—	chariot	—	1	0	0
—	chaife	—	0	15	0
—	copper or iron boiler, from 2s. 6d. to		0	7	6
—	chair unpacked	—	0	0	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
—	chairs in bundles	—	0	1	3
—	couch	—	0	2	6
—	corner-cupboard, according to size,				
	from 1s. 3d. to	—	0	3	9
—	three pieces of crocus, or ofsnabrug,				
	loose	—	0	0	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
—	bag of cotton and shipping	—	0	1	3
—	cask of bottled liquor	—	0	1	3
—	small cask of nails	—	0	0	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
—	large cask of ditto	—	0	1	3
—	carriage-gun, 4 and 6 pounders	—	0	5	0
	All above	—	0	10	0
—	desk	—	0	2	6
—	tierce of earthen-ware	—	0	1	3
—	hoghead of ditto	—	0	2	6
—	hoghead of fish	—	0	1	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
—	barrel, half barrel, or keg of gun-				
	powder	—	0	10	0
—	grapple	—	0	1	3
—	grindstone, if small	—	0	0	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
—	ditto, if large	—	0	1	3
—	hoghead of beer, rum, bread, or				
	molasses	—	0	1	3
—	hoghead of sugar, for landing,				
	wharfage, storage, weighing, and				
	shipping	—	0	2	6

	s.	d.
For every thousand of wood hoops stored —	5	0
— eight hams —	0	7½
— hide —	0	2
— hearth —	5	0
— harrow —	2	6
— hamper, if small —	0	7½
— ditto, if large —	1	3
— dozen of iron pots, loose —	2	6
— iron weight of 56 lb. —	0	7½
— jar of oil, from 3d¼ to —	2	6
— two cooper's jointers —	0	7½
— two kegs of paint, if large —	0	7½
— four small ditto —	0	7½
— four kegs of vinegar, tallow, tripe, bread, groats, pease, and starch —	0	7½
— sheet of lead —	2	6
— bundle of ladles —	0	7½
— thousand feet of lumber —	5	0
— marble slab, from 2s. 6d. to —	7	6
— thousand feet of mahogany plank, slabs, or square timber —	1	6
— bundle of mats —	1	3
— mill-case, common size —	1	3
— ditto, if large —	2	6
— mouth-piece —	0	7½
— dozen of ox-bows —	0	7½
— plough —	2	6
— plate for furnace-mouths —	0	7½
— six pots and drips —	0	7½
— large box of pipes —	1	3
— small ditto —	0	7½
— puncheon of rum, for landing, wharf- age, storage, gauging, and ship- ping —	2	6
	For	

	£.	s.	d.
For receiving and delivering empty puncheons, each	0	0	7½
For every tierce of rice, corn, and other grain	0	0	7½
two barrels of rice	0	0	7½
thousand feet of lumber, shipping-off	0	2	6
bundle of spades, shovels, or jack screws	0	1	3
smith's bellows	0	2	6
eight loaves of sugar	0	0	7½
still and head	0	5	0
set of truss hoops	0	0	7½
spinet	0	3	9
thousand of shingles, unpacked	0	2	6
ditto, in bundles	0	1	3
thousand staves	0	5	0
trunk, 12. 3d. to	0	5	0
table, 12. 3d. to	0	2	6
four boxes of tobacco	0	0	7½
100 rolls of tobacco	0	5	0
100 lb. weight of tobacco	0	1	3
tache	0	2	6
triangle	0	5	0
tierce of sugar, for landing, storage, weighing, and shipping	0	1	10½
ton of wood, if weighed	0	7	6
gudgeon	0	1	3
worm for stills of 500 gallons, or under	0	7	6
worm for stills, from 500 to 1000 gallons	0	10	0
worms for stills, from 1000 gallons and upwards	1	0	0
hoghead of coals	0	1	3
chest of tea	0	1	3

Grating bars, two for	_____	_____	s. 4,
For every iron axle	_____	_____	0 7½
_____ hogthead of lime	_____	_____	1 3
_____ puncheon of temper-lime	_____	_____	1 3

And that all other goods, wares, and merchandises, not therein particularly enumerated and set forth, shall be paid for in proportion to the foregoing rates.

**A TABLE of the RATES of WHARFAGE and STORAGE of the undermentioned Articles at Kingston and Morant-bay only, as altered by an Act of Assembly in 1786.**

For landing, wharfage, storage, and weighing	_____	_____	s. 4.
every hogthead of sugar	_____	_____	2 6
— shipping every hogthead of sugar	_____	_____	1 3
— landing and piling every thousand feet of			
lumber, including staves and heading	—	10 0	
— shipping ditto	_____	_____	5 0
— landing every thousand cypress shingles, loose			5 0
— ditto ditto packed			2 6
— shipping every thousand ditto, loose	_____	_____	2 6
— ditto ditto packed	_____	_____	1 3
— landing every thousand common shingles, loose			3 9
— ditto ditto packed			1 10½
— landing every tierce of rice, corn, or other			
grain	_____	_____	1 3
			For

	s.	d.
For shipping ditto	0	7½
— landing every thousand of bricks and tiles, and piling the same	7	6
— landing, weighing, counting, and storing, every ton of Nicaragua wood	10	0
— shipping ditto	5	0
— landing every hoghead of salt-fish, coals, or lime	2	6
— landing, gauging, and storing, every pun- cheon of rum	1	10½
— shipping ditto	1	3
— landing every bundle of iron hoops	0	5
— landing every tierce of bottled liquor	2	6
— landing every barrel of beef, pork, or flour	0	7½
— landing, storing, and gauging, every pipe of wine	5	0
— shipping ditto	2	6
— landing every tierce of sugar	1	10½
— shipping ditto	1	3
— landing and weighing every bag of cotton	2	6
— shipping ditto	1	3
— landing and weighing every pocket of ditto	1	3
— shipping ditto	0	7½

And for all other articles whatsoever, according to the  
last Table.

WATER

# WATER CARRIAGE from Kingston to the Out-ports.

From Kingston to the under-mentioned Out-ports, or from them to Kingston.	Hogheads, and Shingles, per 1000.	Tierces.	Barrels.	Firkins and Boxes.	Hoes and Bills, per doz.	Ginger, per cwt. or bag.	Cotton, per cwt.	Pimento, per cwt.	Hoops, Staves, and Bricks, per 1000.	Olubrus, per piece.	Boards and Planks, per 1000.	Tobacco, per cwt.
Old Harbour and Peak-bay	0 7 6	3 9	2 6	1 3	0 7 1	1 0 2	2 6	1 10 1	1 5	0 1 3	1 0 0	1 10 1
Withy Wood and Milk River	0 8 9	3 9	2 6	1 3	0 7 1	0 3 9	2 6	2 6 1	5 0 1	1 3	1 3 1	1 2 6
Salt River	0 8 9	3 9	2 6	1 3	0 7 1	0 3 9	2 6	2 6 1	5 0 1	1 3	1 3 1	1 2 6
Black and Plantain-Garden Rivers	0 12 6	5 0	3 9	1 10 1	1 3	1 4 1	4 1 3	1 1 1	10 0 1	1 1 1	5 0 3	1 1 1
White-house	0 15 0	7 6	3 9	1 10 1	1 10 1	1 3	4 4 1	1 1 1	13 9 1	10 1 1	5 0 3	1 1 1
Westmoreland	0 18 9	10 0	5 0	2 6 1	1 10 1	1 10 1	4 4 1	1 1 1	15 0 1	10 1 1	7 6 3	1 1 1
Hanover, and all North Side, Plantain-Garden excepted	1 2 6	6 10 0	5 0	2 6 2	6 3	9 5 0	3 9	2 0 3	1 1 1	15 0 3	9	
Morant-bay	0 8 9	5 0	3 9	1 10 1	1 3	1 0 3	3 9	1 10 1	1 5 0	1 3	1 3 1	1 10 1
Port Morant	0 10 0	5 0	3 9	1 10 1	1 10 1	0 3 9	2 6 1	1 10 1	5 0 1	1 3	1 3 1	1 10 1
Yallah's-bay	0 8 9	4 4 1	3 1 1	3 0 7 1	1 7 1	0 2 6	1 3	1 3	0 0 1	0 1 0	0 1 3	

Small Bundles to or from Hanover and all North Side, except Plantain-Garden River, 1s. 3d.—large ditto, 2s. 6d.—For Plantain-Garden River, and every other Port, small 7½d.—large 1s. 3d.

COMMERCIAL INTERCOURSE WITH THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

*EXTRACT from His Majesty's Order, in Council, for regulating the Trade and Commerce with the United States of America, dated the 24th of March, 1786, as far as the same respects the West-India Islands.*

“ And for the purpose of regulating the trade and commerce between the people and territories belonging to the Crown of Great-Britain in the West-Indies, in which description the Bahama Islands, and the Bermuda or Somers Islands, are included, and the people and territories belonging to the said United States of America, His Majesty is hereby further pleased to order, That no goods or commodities whatsoever, except pitch, tar, turpentine, hemp and flax, masts, yards and bowsprits, staves, heading-boards, timber, shingles, and all other species of lumber; horses, neat cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry, and all other species of live stock  
and

and live provisions ; peas, beans, potatoes, wheat, flour, bread, biscuit, rice, oats, barley, and all other species of grain, being the growth or production of any of the said United States of America. And also tobacco, in the fair and lawful way of barter and traffic between the people of the said United States, and the people of His Majesty's West-India Islands, as permitted by the before-recited Act, passed in the twenty-fifth year of the reign of His present Majesty, may be imported from any of the said United States of America, into any of His Majesty's said West-India Islands ; and that the above goods may, until further order, be imported by British subjects only, and in no other than British-built ships, owned by His Majesty's subjects, and navigated according to law ; and that rum, sugar, molasses, coffee, cocoa-nuts, ginger, and pimento, may, until further order, be exported by British subjects, in British-built ships, owned by His Majesty's subjects, and navigated according to law, from any of the said Islands to any port or place within  
the

the said United States, upon payment of the same duties on exportation, and subject to the like rules, regulations, securities, and restrictions, as the same articles by law are, or may be subject and liable to, if exported to any British colony or plantation in America: and the bonds and securities heretofore required to be taken for such ships, carrying such goods, shall and may be cancelled and discharged upon the like certificates as are required by the said recited Act, made in the twenty-third year of His present Majesty's reign, to discharge any bonds given in Great-Britain, for the due landing any other goods in the said United States of America."

## JAMAICA CHRONOLOGY.

JAMAICA discovered by C. Columbus	1493
Jamaica conquered under Penn and Venables	1655
Colonel D'Oyley, Governor	1660
Lord Windfor, Governor	1662
Sir Charles Lyttleton, Governor	1663
Sir Thomas Muddeford, Governor	1664
Lord Vaughan, Governor	1675
Earl of Carlisle, Governor	1679
Sir Henry Morgan, Governor	1680
Sir Thomas Lynch, Governor	1682
Henry Molefworth, Esq. Governor	1684
Duke of Albemarle, Governor	1687
Earl of Inchiquin, Governor	1688
Great Earthquake, June 7th	1690
Sir William Beeston, Governor	1693
William Selvin, Esq. Governor	1702
Sir Thomas Handasyde, Governor	1704
Lord Archibald Hamilton, Governor	1711
Peter Haywood, Esq. Governor	1716
Sir Nicholas Lawes, Governor	1718
Great Storm, August 28th	1722
Duke of Portland, Governor	1722
Major-General Hunter, Governor	1728
Henry Cunninghame, Esq. Governor	1735
Edward Trelawny, Esq. Governor	1738
Great Storm, October 20th	1744
Charles Knowles, Esq. Governor	1752
Henry	

Henry Moore, Esq. Lieutenant Governor	—	1756
George Haldane, Esq. Governor	—	1758
Henry Moore, Esq. Lieutenant Governor	—	1759
William Henry Lyttleton, Esq. Governor	—	1762
Roger Hope Elletson, Esq. Lieutenant Governor	—	1766
Sir William Trelawny, Bart. Governor	—	1767
Sir Basil Keith, Kt. Governor	—	1773
Major-General John Dalling, Governor	—	1777
Hurricane, October 3d	—	1780
Great Storm, August 1st	—	1781
Sir George Rodney's victory over the French fleet, April 12th	—	1782
Major-General Archibald Campbell, Governor	—	1782
Definitive treaty of peace with France, Spain, Holland, and America, September 3d	—	1783
Brigadier General Alured Clarke, Lieutenant Go- vernor	—	1784
Hurricane, July 30th	—	1784
Hurricane, August 27th	—	1785
Storm, October 20th	—	1786

N. B. From 1493 to 1780, notice is only taken of two *storms*; whereas, from 1780 to 1786, there are accounts of two *storms* and three *hurricanes*: the one in 1786, particularly in the parish of Westmoreland, certainly deserved, from its ruinous effects, this latter appellation.

( lx )

**PRICES of PROVISIONS at Savannah-la-Mar,  
in June, 1788.**

		Currency.			Sterling.		
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
<b>BEEF</b>	per lb.	0	0	5	0	0	3½
<b>Veal</b>	ditto	0	0	10	0	0	7½
<b>Pork</b>	ditto	0	0	10	0	0	7½
<b>Mutton</b>	ditto	0	1	0	0	0	8½
<b>Turkey</b>	ditto	0	0	7½	0	0	9½
<b>Capon</b>		0	5	0	0	3	6½
<b>Turkey Cock</b>		0	15	0	0	10	8½
<b>Ditto Hen</b>		0	12	6	0	8	11
<b>Plantains</b>	per 100	0	2	6	0	1	9½
<b>Geedass</b>	per cwt.	0	5	0	0	3	6½
<b>Flour</b>	per 100 lb.	1	10	0	1	1	5½

**A DESCRIPTIVE**

A D E S C R I P T I V E  
A C C O U N T  
O F T H E  
I S L A N D  
O F  
*J A M A I C A.*

T H E same partiality of friendship that induced me to make public my reflections upon the situation and treatment of Negroes in Jamaica, has encouraged me to be more diffusive in the communication of those ideas which were before suppressed, or which have since arisen upon this popular and political subject; but, as few people, especially among those who are to canvass and to decide upon this important question, can have been personally acquainted with the manners and customs of those  
B                      degraded

degraded Beings, who, by many, are hardly supposed to hold a link in the chain of worldly connexion, it consequently becomes the duty of every man, who has gained the least local and personal experience, to contribute his light, however feeble, towards the illumination of a subject so darkly understood, and in the gloom of which so large a portion of this Island is at present involved. If the same knowledge of Negroes, which my long residence amongst them has unfortunately obtained, had fallen to the lot of persons of wealth and eloquence, whose situations might enforce, or talents persuade; some plan might be carried into full and immediate effect, to render their lives, not only more comfortable, but more respectable to themselves, less burthensome to their masters, less obvious to punishment, and of more ultimate consequence to the preservation of that machine, of which they have hitherto been considered, not as springs, but weight.

However

However unequal I may be to the expression of my own ideas, and however little attended to those ideas may be; yet I cannot withhold them, without reproach, upon the present occasion, in the hope that they may excite more forcible arguments from superior abilities, and that the poor Negroes in general may stand a chance of obtaining some relief from the commiseration of individual feelings: but before I enter upon the investigation of this subject, a subject that is meant to soften the rigour of bodily exertions, to give protection to weakness, and comfort to distress, it may not be unprofitable to know what those labours and sufferings are, and how far that protection and that comfort may be extended, with full and lasting effect, to the objects of compassion.

I shall therefore make some observations upon the appearance of the country, upon the cultivation of the land; and shall dwell, at some length, upon the process of the sugar-cane from its first

plantation, and through all its stages, until its ashes shall return again to manure the soil in which it began at first to vegetate. I shall afterwards attempt a description of the climate, of the manners, occupations, pursuits, and characters of the White Inhabitants; and shall examine how far their *local* conduct has a moral influence upon *that* of the *slaves*. I shall then dwell upon the labours of the latter; and shall faithfully explain, from a long and painful experience, and in the hope that others may profit from my errors, how far *they* really are in a state of *bodily* suffering, or *mental* dependence. I have been induced to extend my ideas so far, from a conviction that it is a material branch of the present subject, and from a due attention to which, the future comfort and preservation of the slaves can alone proceed; for when you shall be made acquainted with their actual situation, you will consequently be enabled to judge whether or no it be correspondent, or oppressive, to their state and feelings. By tracing the progress of their

their yearly work, and by having explained, in a general manner, the methods used in the cultivation of the soil (for their labour is upon a large scale, and not branched out into those minutiae which are necessary in the operations of sedentary employments), a reasonable, at least, if not a satisfactory idea may be formed of their situation. My observations being confined to one island, and to one particular part of that island, can weigh but little in the benevolent scale of extensive reformation; but if the customs of the White People, and the manners and treatment of the Negroes in our different colonies, be candidly considered, and humanely adduced, it cannot be doubted but very beneficial effects would follow the investigation of truth; effects, that would loosen the bonds of slavery, and only leave the remembrance of the name.

It is certainly the interest of the proprietor to rejoice, in more instances than one, at the approaching comfort and  
B 3
protection

protection of those degraded mortals, to whose personal existence, and prospects of increase, he must look up for his pecuniary means, and independent welfare; and so often as he shall turn his eyes upon this insulted branch of the human species, let him only reflect that the same God who rolls his thunder over *their* heads, may blast *his* pride, and wither the hand that is raised in anger against the weak, and thus help to enforce an example of justice against the strong.

There cannot be a more incontrovertible proof of the necessity of some reformation in the management of Negroes, than the revision and amendment of those laws in Jamaica which pressed so much upon their bodily feelings, and mental afflictions: and it would have reflected more honour upon those who live so much in the community of slaves, if those alterations had been the spontaneous effects of *their* humanity, and had not originated in, and been enforced by the persevering compassion of, *England*.

I do

I do not mean to enter into a full and minute description of Jamaica, as that has been already done with more ability than I possess, and with more information than I have been able, or industrious enough, to obtain; but I shall endeavour to enliven, as opportunities may occur, my dull observations, by an introduction of such objects as are seldom visited, and such particulars as are too little known.

The first appearance of Jamaica presents one of the most grand and lively scenes that the creating hand of Nature can possibly exhibit: mountains of an immense height seem to crush those that are below them; and these are adorned with a foliage as thick as vivid, and no less vivid than continual. The hills, from their summits to the very borders of the sea, are fringed with trees and shrubs of a beautiful shape, and undecaying verdure; and you perceive mills, works, and houses, peeping among their branches, or buried amidst their shades.

The sea is, in general, extremely smooth and brilliant; and, before the breeze begins to ripple its glassy surface, is so remarkably transparent, that you can perceive (as if there were no intervening medium) the rocks and sands at a considerable depth; the weeds and coral that adorn the first, and the stars and other testaceous fishes that repose upon the last.

Every passing cloud affords some pleasing variation; and the glowing vapours of the atmosphere, when the sun arises or declines, and when the picturesque and fantastic clouds are reflected in its polished bosom, give an enchanting hue, and such as is only particular to the warmer climates, and which much resemble those saffron skies which so strongly mark the Campania of Rome, and the environs of Naples.

There are many parts of the country that are not much unlike to, nor less romantic than, the most wild and beautiful

ful situations of Fieschi, Tivoli, and Albano; and the want of those picturesque and elegant ruins which so much ennoble the landscapes of Italy, are made some amends for, in the painter's eye, by the appearance, the variety, and the number of the buildings.

The verdure of England, in the midst of summer, can hardly vie with that of Jamaica for seven, eight, or nine months in the year; and as there are but few apparently deciduous trees and shrubs, *that verdure* seems to be, upon the mountains, unfading and perennial.

From many situations you have views so much diversified, that, wherever you turn, a new prospect delights the eye, and occasions surprise by the magnificence of the objects, by the depths of shadow or bursts of light, by the observation of gloomy dells or woody plains, of mountain-torrents, and of winding-streams; of groups of negroes, herds of cattle, passing wains; and by the recurrence of every rural  
object

object that imagination can form, or attention discriminate.

The timber-trees in the mountains are large and lofty ; and the cotton-trees in particular, both there and upon the plains, are of a very beautiful and magnificent growth, and are rendered strikingly picturesque by the numberless withes that depend from branch to branch, and by the variety of creeping or stationary plants (deleterious, indeed, to their health and vegetation, but from which no painter would wish to see them disengaged) which attach themselves to the trunks and extremities ; and as the roots are very large, and form recesses at the bottom of the stems, or run a considerable distance, and in various lines, above the ground, they make, all together, a very singular and a striking appearance.

The verdure upon the cultivated plains and hills, of which there is an infinite and pleasing variety, is seen to change  
almost

almost every month; and the general, and perceptible rapidity of vegetation, particularly after droughts or storms, will hardly be credited, excepting by those who have suffered from a contention of the elements, and have consoled themselves with this sudden restoration of nature, and looked forward to an increase of produce, to compensate, in idea at least, the loss and disappointment which they have lately sustained.

The docks and weeds of which the foregrounds in Jamaica are composed, are the most rich and beautiful productions of the kind I have ever seen; and the banks of the rivers are fringed with every growth that a painter would wish to introduce into this agreeable part of landscape: and those borders which Claude Lorrain, Poussin, and Salvator Rosa, took apparently so much pleasure and pains to enrich, are there excelled by the hand of Nature alone: nor do I conceive it possible for any artist to invent, by

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a sedulous collection of the most choice and beautiful parts of her productions, more enchanting scenes than can be observed in the dells and vallies, and on the margins of the rivers, in that beautiful and romantic country.

The cascades, the torrents, the rivers, and the rills, are enchantingly picturesque in their different features, and exchange the sublimity or repose of their scenes, according to the variations of the seasons, or the turmoils of the elements; and these variations, I should conceive, few climates afford in competition with that I have ventured to describe. The colours of Louthembourg are better calculated for the expression of such varieties than those, I should imagine, of any modern artist; and he might there meet with several falls, the surrounding scenery of which might eclipse the boasted waters of Schaffhausen, the brilliancy of Pissvache, and the gloom of Terni.

From

From the rocks, in general, but from those in particular that help to form the Bay of Bluefields, may be made the most rich and beautiful studies; and indeed it is hardly possible to describe the variety and softness of their tints, the boldness of their masses, the projection of their shades, the various and picturesque accompaniments of trees that rise and spread from, of shrubs that partially hide, of bushes that creep over, or plants and weeds that luxuriantly adorn, their broken basements; and which basements are worn into caverns, or hollows, by the irritation of the tides, which leave, as a recompence for the intrusions they have made, a deposit of beautiful and various dyes; of such dyes as the most celebrated artist might be proud to imitate, and the imitation of which it would require the eye of judgment and execution not to disgrace. There was a man who could do them justice: but, he is gone! and I hope I shall stand excused, if I venture, in the course of this work, to record his name, and devote a portion of my remarks to his praise.

The

The morning scenery of this region is uncommonly beautiful, particularly in those seasons which are marked by the most heavy dews, and at those hours when the sun, having climbed the mountains, begins to illuminate the verdure of the plains and fields, and to gild the leaves of the plantain, and the branches of the orange-trees; over which are spread, in the most beautiful net-work, and in every direction, innumerable cobwebs of the most fine and transparent filk, which, adorned with drops of dew, and gemmed by the rays of the sun, and glowing in the centre with the bright and beautiful colours of their industrious inhabitants, present a scene at once novel and delightful. The lawns are likewise covered in the same manner, and add one beauty to a landscape which I have not ever seen expressed by imitation, or observed, as objects of nature, with the same charms, in any other country. At this period of the day, the air is temperately cool; and the varieties of the natural and pastoral world may be contemplated

plated without inconvenience; but, as the sun advances, and its beams are diffused, the most enchanting landscape will hardly make amends for the excess of heat, and the enervating languor with which it is constantly attended.

At some seasons of the year, the climate is more tolerable than it is at others; and when the north winds set in, and continue to blow (which they sometimes do with a keenness that would even shake a northern constitution), it may be borne with patience at least, if not with pleasure. From five to seven o'clock in the morning, it is tolerably cool; but, I think, from that time until the sea breeze sets in (which is commonly between nine and ten), is that period of the day which is the most insupportable. The evenings are pleasant for about an hour; and the nights in general are not by any means so oppressive as I have frequently felt them in more chilly climates.

The sun-set in Jamaica produces, in the clouds, the most picturesque and pleasing varieties ; and indeed I have wondered that landscape-painters, in general, have not more minutely studied from nature this leading principle, and this foundation of the art. There are many who look for light and shadow upon earth, who cannot rationally, or scientifically, account for the oppositions which they see before them, and who perhaps are totally unacquainted with the causes that give brilliancy to the first, or darkness to the last : and I am apt to believe (I wish I were not obliged to speak from experience), that there are many sketchers of landscape, who introduce the principal features of nature in trees, in broken foregrounds, in rocks, rivers, bridges, bays, and seas ; and to these different objects give their shadows and reflections, abandon the spots upon which these studies have been made, and put the finishing hand to what they call their natural scenery, without having even marked-in the forms of an overhanging cloud, or tinted

tinted the beauties of a bright, or a vapoury sky, or of having derived a rational light from that commanding influence above, which can alone occasion variety to the scenes below. In the outline of a drawer of landscape, the skies are in general, I fear, omitted: they are left to be afterwards introduced, as indolence may require; and it often of consequence happens, that *those* which should explain, are contradictory to the charms and fidelity of the scene. There is a great deal of difference between running a line over the extremities of Nature, and filling up those lines with truth and judgement; and it even requires some *art* to express Nature in such a manner, that she may not be deemed unnatural. I have observed such representations in the clouds, as the most enthusiastic painter would not venture to imitate; and yet uncommon objects are equally subjects of common expression.

The moon-lights in Jamaica are particularly brilliant; but as it is reckoned

pernicious to be exposed to the dews with which they are attended, there are but few people who take any pleasure in the contemplation of those beautiful scenes which they occasion. In the mountains, their effects are very singularly grand, as the fogs awaken the representation of every feature that enthusiasm can combine with truth, or add to the beauty and variety of a perfect landscape; and of these appearances I have been frequently a witness; and one discriminated scene of which, I shall take the liberty, in this place, to distinguish.

The night was stillness itself; not a zephyr was awake, and not a sound was heard, except the howlings of the cur that bayed the moon, which now shone resplendent in her meridian, and showed the planets, and the stars, and the whole face of heaven, without a cloud: the toads, indeed, croaked out their noisy descant; but their hoarseness, so peculiar to night, contributed their rural influence, and only  
seemed

seemed responsive basses to the enchanting trebles of the nightingales that swelled around. From an elevated piazza, and surrounded by distant mountains most romantically covered with wood, we looked down upon the beauties of the plain below, which represented an extensive lake, indented by apparent bays, hollowed ports, and level shores. A small archipelago of islands seemed set within its bosom, in which imagination designed, and with pleasure embodied, and gave to airy nothing, a local habitation and a name. A part of the surrounding scenery was buried in shade; a part less gloomy: the moon-beam darted *here*, and loitered *there*; while the mirror of the lake received its burst of light, and reflected all around its spreading rays. The fire-flies were seen to glitter amidst the shadows, to shoot electric meteors from their eyes, or coruscations from beneath their wings. In some places we could fancy that rivers meandered in their course to mix their streams with this silver expanse of imagi-

nary waters; in others, we were led to trace the winding path, to see the candle tremble from the cottage wicket, or listen to the clacking of the distant mill. Between the plain and the elevation from which this scene was observed (and a view something similar I have frequently seen represented in the clouds in the rainy seasons), there diminished from the sight a succession of hills: that nearest to the sight was dark; and the others progressively emerged from darkness into light. A more enchanting landscape in any region, or at any time of the day, I had not ever before seen, than the picturesque variety occasioned by the fogs in the representation of that I have now attempted to describe.

Every situation that commands the harbour of Kingston, takes in a prospect which can hardly be surpassed in any quarter of the world, as in that prospect are strongly varied, and magnificently brought together, the pleasing and romantic, the extensive and sublime.

The

The majestic sweep, and beautiful curve of the Bay of Port-Royal; the numerous sails that catch the wind in every direction, the romantic projection of the town that gives it name, the dotted houses that mark in the situation of Kingston, and the numerous masts of vessels that rise above their summits, present a scene of business and variety: the level pastures and the sandy beach, the extensive marsh and tufted groves, afford the pleasures of quiescent Nature: the rough and threatening aspects of the different batteries which seem to over-awe the placid scenery, while the swelling hills of Ligunnea (which are adorned with almost every species of useful vegetation), and above these, the towering grandeur of the Blue Mountains which are covered with a sapphire haze, and which appear to lose their summits in the clouds, combine their magnificent powers to awaken the surprise, and to fix the attention of every beholder; and he who can view this romantic variety without preserving a record of it in his mind, must be deemed a

frigid observer indeed, where he ought to be an admirer of the beautiful, and an enthusiast of the sublime.

The views in the part of the Island distinguished by the name of Sixteen-mile Walk, have charms, I am inclined to think, almost their own: although some particular parts of Matlock and Dove-dale (the scenery of which latter place they much resemble), may be more confinedly picturesque, yet the former are more varied and numerous, and the rocks, with which they are surrounded, more stupendous and lofty. At every turn, throughout the distance above mentioned, the eye is presented with a novel scene, and is alternately led from the pleasing to the terrific, through bursts of light, or nights of shade. The road which winds throughout the valley, is uncommonly fine; and the river that divides it, and which in some places glides smoothly away, and in others (especially in the rainy seasons), when it becomes a hoarse and troubled torrent,

adds

adds very considerably to the variety and dignity of the scene. In some places the rocks seem to join, as if to oppose a passage; in others they appear to open, as if to invite the traveller to the examination of future wonders: sometimes they separate above, to give the sun-beams leave to warm the chilly bottom, and sometimes are nearly closed on the top, as if to prevent the day from peering upon its glooms. In some parts there are tremendous precipices; in others, gentle declivities and level plains: the rocks are, in some places, smooth and naked; in others, they exhibit ruins, arches, towers, and caves; and in others, the most luxuriant and spreading foliage is perceived, and varied by trees of numerous description and growth, and many of which rise to a considerable height from the very centre and through the fissures of the rock, without the appearance of a particle of mould: and this singular appearance is likewise frequently observed in other parts of the country. The banks of the river are ornamented with a variety

of beautiful productions, which exhibit an infinite diversity of breaks and foregrounds; and that part of it over which a bridge is thrown, is, in my opinion, the most striking: it is flat and simple, and seems peculiarly adapted to the features of the scene: it communicates, as it were, disjointed beauties, and hardly appears to interrupt the progress of the stream, although the current is always seen to ripple, sometimes to break in foam, and in the rainy seasons to rush with such a violence, as oftentimes to carry it away, or to deposit its ruins amongst the docks and sedges. Indeed the whole stream runs through, and enriches, as many delightful scenes as a lover of Nature can any where meet with, or the most enthusiastic artist could possibly desire.

May-day Hill, and the country around it, should be particular objects of the stranger's curiosity, who may have time and inclination to examine Nature in her most wild and magnificent forms. In this  
part

part of the country, her beauties principally consist of winding roads, of frequent risings and declivities, of verdant borders and gloomy woods; and such varieties as these few objects can occasion, and such pleasure as they can afford, are here to be found in full perfection.

In these scenes the contrasted beauties of light and shadow, must atone for the charms of water, and the delights of distance.

The ascent and descent of this celebrated mountain are more steep than any I have ever seen, over which a carriage has travelled; and as the little mould that is accumulated by the dry weather is very soon washed away by the rains; the stones, or rather, in many places, the rocks, with which they are paved, or thickly covered, increase the difficulty, if not the danger, of the passing tread.

The road upon the top of the hill is tolerably good; but, on account of the irregularity of the ground, is tedious to the eye, and so distressing to the traveller, that I

would rather pass the Alps or the Pyrenean mountains, at the most inclement time of the year, than journey over this hill (notwithstanding very little inconvenience is occasioned by heat), at the most pleasant and favourable season for such an excursion.

On his arrival upon May-day Hill, the traveller is refreshed with a new climate; and he runs for comfort to the social fire, with as much pleasure as he would in the plains have explored the shade. The air, upon that elevation, is certainly chill; but then the damp will rather affect, than the cold will numb. At such a height the productions of the frigid zone will, with proper culture and corresponding care, very successfully flourish; and these retreats from low-land situations would, in the time of the seasons, be certainly delightful, were it not for the difficulties of access, the inconvenience and insalubrity of the dews, the certainty of rain, the dangerous and frequent dartings of the lightning, and the tremendous roarings of the shaking thunder, which so awfully prevail in these regions, and which hardly  
compensate

compensate the violence of the heat, and the other local discomforts that are experienced below.

The road from the little village of Bath to the Fountain of the Medicinal Spring, is most horribly romantic, and partakes very much of those anticipations of the sublime of Nature, which, in his progress through particular vallies, the traveller cannot fail to have frequently experienced. The narrowness of the path, and the precipices upon one side, are to strangers somewhat alarming; but the beautiful scenery with which the journey is rewarded, affords some consolation for the danger past.

On the left-hand of this romantic valley there runs a narrow road, the sides of which are covered with hills of an almost perpendicular height, and from whence there trickles, at every turn, a slender rill, which winds its prattling course among the trees and shrubs that over-hang the almost invisible and tremendous chasm below. As  
this

this dell (from the peculiar closeness of its situation, encompassed by mountains on every side, and darkened by woods and other vegetative substances that spread their glooms in every direction) is subject to continual showers: there are consequently sheds erected at convenient distances, for the accommodation of the traveller, who is frequently obliged to expend much time in performing the trifling journey from the village to the spring; and in which journey (of about three miles) is most pleasingly united every object that can call forth the charms of retirement, in the murmurs of the stream which invite to meditation; in the cooings of the dove that awaken sensibility; in the trillings of the nightingale that soothe despair; or in the clamour of the crows, the shrieking of the parrots and the perroquets, and the dismal croaking of the toads that overcome, with the sounds of tumult and discordance, the assuasive melody of softer tones.

When you arrive at the Bath House, or rather Hovel, the hot spring appears in  
 2 full

full view before you, and smoaking in its descent from the bottom of a deeply-shaded and impending wood, and down a whitish coloured rock (which is tinted with a variety of pleasing dyes, and in perfect harmony of colours with the foliage that is seen to flaunt around) has a very singular, as it has a very pleasing and romantic appearance. The landscape is indeed confined: it is a shady glen, and remarkable for its seeming abstraction from the world, and pleasing from the philosophic solemnity of its glooms. The torrent that appears to hurry on its foamy course from the distant mountains, that its chilly waters may receive the warmth of a more genial stream, and with which the more than tepid cascade (as if to add its own superfluity of heat to dispel the others intensity of cold, and to make the union independently assimilate) commixes its own abundance; and which runs meandering, after this conjunction, through a vale as dark as Erebus, as still as night, save where its current is heard with hoarseness to resound  
upon

upon the pebbly bottom; or where a stone, disrupted from the hill above, comes thundering down with direful crash, entombs its ponderous mass in the sands below, and there remains a barrier to the progress of the stream, and gives succeeding ripples where its lapse was scarcely disturbed before.

It is in vain to look for more than a partial sun-beam to illumine these shades: it will sometimes dart upon, and play amongst the upper foliage of the trees, but will seldom irradiate the docks and weeds that spread below. The moon will sometimes, too, with modest reserve, delight to shoot forth a furtive ray, and for a time repose (when the zephyrs shall disturb and blow aside their mass of shadows) upon the verdant darkness of the cocoa-leaf, and brighten the umbrellas of the plantain, or tremble amidst the branches, and shine upon the stem of the gigantic cotton-tree; will silver over the reflecting bosom of the running stream, engem the dews that glitter

ter from the brakes, and excite the nightingale to innovate, and encourage him to continue long, his nocturnal elegy.

How sweetly adapted is this charming retreat to midnight contemplation, silence, and the muse! The *Penferoso here* had found *his* paradise—the afflicted, consolation—the patient, hope—and the philosopher, an oblivion of the world and all its cares.

The variety and brilliancy of the verdure in Jamaica are particularly striking; and the trees and shrubs that adorn the face of the country are singular for the richness of their tints, the depths of their shadows, and the picturesque appearance they make. It is hardly possible to conceive any vegetation more beautiful, and more congenial to a painter's eye, than that which universally prevails throughout every part of that romantic Island; the leading features of the landscape of which are splendour and magnificence, and which are strongly marked,

marked, not only in the rocks and mountains, but in the wood-lands and the plains. The palm, the cocoa-nut, the mountain-cabbage, and the plantain, when associated with the tamarind, the orange, and other trees of beautiful growth and vivid dyes, and these commixed with the waving plumes of the bamboo-cane, the singular appearance of the Jerusalem thorn, the bushy richness of the oleander and African rose, the glowing red of the scarlet cordium, the verdant bowers of the jessamine and Grenadilla vines, the tufted plumes of the lilac, the silver-white and silky leaves of the portlandia, together with that prodigious variety of minor fruits and lowly shrubs, all together compose an embroidery of colours which few regions can rival, and which none can perhaps surpass. The young logwood-sets make beautiful fences; the bastard cedar-trees, that are dotted over the pastures, afford a pleasing shade; the lime-bushes have a cheerful appearance; the intervals between the cane-pieces in some measure break the formality

formality of *their* growth : the plantation-buildings have a marked and pleasing effect: the houses upon the pens (or farms), and those stuck here and there upon the smaller settlements, contribute their assistance to the rural scenery; while the lowly hovels of the negroes, huddled together in the form of a town, with *their* picturesque appearance, render it still more so by the clumps of different vegetation that oftentimes surround them; and the numerous herds of cattle, sheep, or goats that browse upon the plains, or frolic upon the hills, all together contribute to make a landscape, which, in other climates, would excite the pencil of the artist, the curiosity of the naturalist, and the astonishment and delight of every beholder. Of these scenes I have seen but few copies, and fewer imitations; and I cannot help lamenting, in this place, the early end of one who was well acquainted with the picturesque varieties of the Island, and whose truth in their representation could be only equalled by his taste, his judgment, and his execution. I flatter

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myself that I shall be excused by those who value talents, and honour goodness, if I pay my mite of sentiment (however inadequate may be the expression) to the memory of a man whose heart I valued, and whose genius I was taught, from a long and intimate knowledge of his works, almost to venerate. He can gain, alas! but little from my praise, although I have daily opportunities of finding in his labours a pleasing, although a melancholy subject of remembrance. The mind is painfully soothed (if I may be allowed the expression) by a tender recurrence to those events which helped to fill up the vacuum of youthful pleasures, by the introduction of works of genius, or the reciprocal exchanges of confidence and friendship: and if a temporary separation from those we value and love shall affect us, how much more sensibly must we feel that separation which must remain to the end of our lives! To forget, is a lesson that religion may teach, but which affection will with difficulty adopt; but to forget a man who has  
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given pleasure, and still gives pleasure, from an observation of his works, would even to an apathist be deemed impossible.

The genius of Mr. Robertson was eclipsed by his modesty; and it was owing to this amiable failing that his merits have remained in the back-ground of the picture, when his knowledge and execution of landscape ought to have brought him forward as a principal figure. He was indefatigable in his profession, not only from inclination, but principle: he was diffident of his own abilities; and while he under-rated them, he appreciated those of others: he considered praise as the generosity of another's heart, and by no means as a tribute that could be exacted by genius: he was disinterested, and, I think, to a fault; respectful to all, and envious of none. I never knew him extoll his own performances, or lance a shaft of criticism against his brother artists. The goodness of his heart was expressed by his gratitude; a gratitude that spake by the silent

oratory of his deeds: and he was used to think himself the person obliged, when he could make his talents subservient to the pleasure of others: and what could not such talents and such a mind perform?

As a professional man, he was, in my poor opinion, the most enthusiastic, as he was the most correct admirer of Nature, I ever had, in his line, the good fortune to meet with: he caught her variations as it were by instinct; and he made her charms his own, without the appearance of imitation. Whatever, as an observer, he contemplated, he could, as an artist, with readiness describe; and so fond was he of, and accustomed to rural objects, that I have known him trace from memory, what has been afterwards proved exact from vision. There was an expression in his touch, almost peculiar to himself; and yet, when he was even a young man, he was of so nervous a habit, that he was frequently obliged to press one hand upon the other, to make a stroke; and notwithstanding this misfortune,

tune, so disadvantageous to his execution, the forms of his outlines were firm, correct, and simple. In the choice and grouping of his trees, in his oppositions of light and shadow, in the opening of his leaves, the direction of his branches, and the markings of the bark, my partiality inclines me to think that he almost stood without a rival; without a rival in drawing I am still inclined to think, however deficient he has been said to be in the science of colouring: and although those necessary attainments of landscape-drawing, I have just described, were peculiarly observable in him, yet I do not conceive that they stand as objects to preclude his other perfections. His skies were admirable, and were always expressive of the season of the year, and of the time of the day which he intended to represent. To his atmosphere he conveyed an enchanting warmth: his clouds were distinguished by the truth and integrity of their forms, and seemed to float, in his placid scenes, upon the air by which they were supported; and although he could clothe

Nature with the beauties of tranquillity, yet could he excite the wind, and faithfully represent the terrors of the tempest. He could adopt with success, the delicate manner of Claude Lorrain, the learned compositions of Jasper Pouffin, and the wild and expressive horrors of Salvator Rosa. Of light and shadow he was a consummate master; and he knew how to introduce an effect from objects of chance, much better than my little experience has enabled me to observe in others. The marking of his roads, and the breaking of his grounds, were perfections to which I know not any artist who has equally attained: and he knew how to ennoble nature by magnificence; and to give to the most trivial objects, by the introduction of the most simple expression, not only interest, but variety. As he never introduced a dock, or a thistle, without an apparent meaning, or a seeming knowledge of the spot upon which Nature would have taught them to grow, his foregrounds were of course, not only pleasing, but correct. His natural predilection of  
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the art inclined him to cattle; and these he touched and finished with wonderful integrity, taste, and spirit. The backgrounds of these his favourite subjects, were expressive of, and corresponding to, the scenes; and when he consulted his own choice, he seldom made those scenes extensive. His facility was inconceivable in landscape, animals, fruit, or flowers, in all of which he equally excelled; and he would almost finish a drawing, before another would determine how to begin. Upon the base of knowledge he founded the superstructure of observation; and hence it happened that there was sense and truth in all he did. He rarely blotted, or erased; and it was owing to this certainty of execution that he made so many drawings in a few years, although a constant martyr to debility and sickness. He struggled long, amidst the infirmities of life; and closed that life when his circumstances were such as to place him beyond the reach of professional dependence. It is a pity that more of his drawings are not

engraved: of the numerous and interesting views he took in Jamaica, only six have yet met the public eye, although there are many that richly deserve to be removed from dust and oblivion. As his talents were various, an exhibition of almost every thing that Nature produces, may be found in his works; and these are executed with equal beauty and precision in colours, and in chalks. Some of his most finished (I will not say most laboured) performances, are in the valuable collection of Mr. Alderman Boydell; and if they be distinguished there, and highly prized by that liberal and intelligent Patron and Critic of the Arts, what idea must not be entertained of their perfection! As every thing he did can hardly fail to communicate pleasure, it is much to be wished that all his works could be collected together, and thus form one exhibition of his taste, his talents, and his perseverance; or that some ingenious artist would come forward to perpetuate his memory: he would not only deserve and possess the thanks of the public, but like-  
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wife enjoy the congratulatory applause of his own heart. The names of Robertson and Earlom, to the same plate, could not fail to render them immortal. The works which he has left behind to the care of his afflicted widow, and who treasures them up with equal sentiments of tenderness and taste, and those coloured drawings in the collection of his warm and steady friend Mr. Moore, will ever remain as monuments of those talents which many will envy, but few attain. Could I write as he could draw, this page of sincerity and affection might possibly survive oblivion.

The observations I have made upon the scenery of Jamaica, are the faithful consequences of a long and minute investigation of its beauties; nor am I conscious that I have introduced one single object of Nature that I have not frequently had before my eyes, and have not contemplated with perseverance and delight. I wish, indeed, that I had been possessed of the descriptive pencil, and the recording pen,  
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of that elegant Enthusiast who has immortalized the beauties of the Wye, and the magnificent variety of the lakes, that the views of an Island (the picturesque and internal appearances of which have been so little examined, and are consequently so little known), might have had those advantages of which they are now deprived by my prolix and languid description. Having formerly travelled with one whose taste and judgment (but whose well-known suavity of manners I will not insult by my feeble commendation) would have awakened the curiosity of the most humble spectator, it would have been strange indeed, if in the course of those travels I did not wish to profit from his example; and to treasure up in my mind for future occasions, those various and pertinent remarks which could not fail to lead the observer to the contemplation of nature; and, in *her* works, to the veneration of the great Artificer. Having resided with him for some time in that delightful country, from which the most celebrated painters  
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of landscape have made their principal studies; and having always travelled with those who loved, or were professors of the Art; and having accompanied the latter in all their walks, and followed their imitations upon the easel, it is not unnatural to suppose that I should catch, as it were by reflection, a small portion of their curiosity, and endeavour to follow, at a distance, those rays which have warmed, although they have not been able to illuminate.

As one, therefore, who has observed Nature with more enthusiasm than taste, I must decide in favour of the rich and magnificent scenery of the West-Indies, in preference to any rural appearances I have observed in other countries; and I should dwell with more pertinacity upon this opinion, were they, by contrast, more observed and better known.

During my residence of nearly thirteen years in the Island, I did not meet  
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with one single artist who could take an exact outline of nature; nor can it be expected that men of business should sacrifice their time in searching for objects that would exhaust their spirits, without adding to the weight of their purse; and that those who have had a liberal education, and who are, though not professedly, in reality idle, should range over the romantic situations of the Island, and neglect the observation of those beautiful scenes with which they are surrounded, might astonish at first, but would not long be a cause of surprise, if you could only be ascertained of the difficulty and consequent fatigue with which the least exertion in that climate is sure to be attended; a climate that very soon, and perceptibly, in many subjects, relaxes the nervous system, makes indolence succeed to industry, disease to health, and disappointment and vexation undermine the body, and care and despondency overcome, and at last destroy the vigour of the mind,

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There are some people, indeed, who live there long, and live happily; but I greatly fear that this enviable list must be confined to partial situation, and prosperity. Although the country produces every thing in the most luxuriant abundance that can either contribute to the necessities, or administer to the delicacies of life, yet it is by no means a residence at all congenial to the dispositions of those who have received their education in Europe; to which the manners and pursuits are so dissimilar, that it is with pain and difficulty that even patience and necessity can submit, without complaint, to endure, what the most persevering endurance can never reconcile.

It is, however, (and I believe that it is generally confessed to be) the best poor man's country in the world: and that country must be surely good that can convert poverty into independence, can smooth the brow of sorrow and despair, and occasion the heavy heart to leap for joy :

joy: and where a man can acquire a competent fortune by persevering industry and honest gain, the liberal mind will be less willing to envy, than it will be desirous to applaud.

Having given you a general description of some of the most remarkable scenes in Jamaica, considered in a picturesque and desultory point of view, I shall now beg leave to turn, and for a time confine your attention to the cultivation of the Sugar-cane, the great and valuable staple of the country: and that you may be able to form an accurate idea of this rich and singular exotic (for when Jamaica was discovered by Columbus, this plant was not known in the Island), and may enter into the minutiae of a vegetable of which there is not a single inch that is not converted to some use, either in its advancement to perfection, or when its juice is expressed and boiled, and its pith reduced to ashes,—I shall take it up from its most early plantation, and trace it through its  
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various progress, until it shall be again returned to enrich the bosom of that soil which became its parent and its nurse.

The ground, in the months of July, August, September, and October, having been previously invigorated where it was necessary, by flying pens (or moving folds), or by manure (according to the nature of the situation, and the convenience of the carriage) deposited in the cane-holes which are prepared for the reception of the plant, a gang of negroes is set in, a day or two before, to cut as many canes from another piece (and the more contiguous, the more convenient will it be of course to transport them) as will employ the wains, mules, and husbandmen, for two or three days at least: for, as labour in the West-Indies is exorbitantly dear, the least loss of time is consequently felt; and every delay should, by care and foresight, be as much as possible avoided.

The cane-hole is from three to four feet wide, seldom more than eight inches

deep, although the banks that are raised from the earth that is excavated, gives them the appearance of more considerable depth. Two canes, or parts of canes, are laid in longitudinally, under the banks, one on each side, or two pretty close together in the centre of the hole; and behind these rows is generally planted corn: they are afterwards covered with a thin layer of earth; and in five or six days, if any rain shall fall, they will begin to shoot from the eyes; and in about four or five weeks they will require, and ought to have, their first weeding. Their future cleanings will greatly depend upon the succession, or dereliction, of the seasons. The second time they are gone through, the bank is partly taken down; the third time, made level: and great care should be observed, that the trenches be kept open and clean; and whatever trash shall at that time happen to be upon them, should be gently removed, as a violent plucking will make them bleed, and in some measure check their future vegetation,

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I do not much approve of their being too highly trashed after the month of September, nor of their being disturbed, even without the hoe, after this period (as is often the custom, if no wind shall have happened to blow them down); as at this season they begin to ripen, are consequently brittle, and the tread of the negroes would therefore do them more injury than their hands could procure them good. It may not, however, be useless, after the copper-wood shall be carted home, to go round the extremities of the pieces, and to discharge the outward rows of trash, that the air and sun may have effect upon the internal parts of the field; but even this, upon hilly land, and if the weather shall have been any time dry, I conceive to be particularly prejudicial: and for this, and other reasons, the canes should be ground as soon as possible, after they are carried to the mill: and I would recommend that the whole, or a part of every Saturday, or more often (should there be any considerable quantity), be

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devoted to the picking up, carting, and grinding the rum (or tainted canes); for *they*, as well as the sugar-cane, will lose something every minute by a delay.

Those who are very assiduous in collecting the rum-canes, glean, as it were, a second time the harvest field: and, independently of the addition that is made to the quantity of spirit, the accumulation of additional trash ought always to be an object of a planter's attention; for upon this, the quantity and quality of his crops will in a great measure depend, and the ease and celerity with which his sugar shall be manufactured. And, indeed, where any cane-piece, after having been cut, shall be over-burdened with trash, I would recommend the practice of St. Kitts, and other islands, of carrying it off, and heaping it up for future service.

A field of canes, when standing, in the month of November, when it is in arrow (or full blossom), is one of the most beautiful

ful productions that the pen or pencil can possibly describe. It in common rises from three to eight feet, or more, in height; a difference of growth that very strongly marks the difference of soil, or the varieties of culture. It is, when ripe, of a bright and golden yellow; and where obvious to the sun, is, in many parts, very beautifully streaked with red: the top is of a darkish green; but the more dry it becomes, from either an excess of ripeness or a continuance of drought, of a russet yellow, with long and narrow leaves depending; from the centre of which shoots up an arrow, like a silver wand, from two to six feet in height; and from the summits of which, grows out a plume of white feathers, which are delicately fringed with a lilac dye; and indeed is, in its appearance, not much unlike the tuft that adorns this particular and elegant tree,

Having mentioned the cane, as to perfection in point of ripeness, I shall now

make you acquainted with its numerous enemies, throughout the various stages of its precarious growth.

Should the rains unluckily cease, and a severe drought set in, soon after a piece of land is planted, a great many, and sometimes all the canes, will consequently perish; and thus require a partial supply, or a total replantation: nor do I know any occupation upon an estate more irksome and tedious than this is allowed to be. The cattle, without extraordinary care, will frequently commit trespasses upon them in an early state: and as they pipe, or extract the heart-leaf, the future progress of the plant will be shortened, if not destroyed. The yellow and the black blast are both almost indescribably pernicious; but the former is particularly destructive. It is called the yellow, from its giving that colour to the leaves, and which is occasioned by large nests of insects that sap the root, relax the fibres, and bore into the substance of the canes; and from which

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particular property, they are called Borers, in the Leeward and French Islands; and by which many estates have been destroyed, and the owners constrained to forego, for some years at least, the cultivation of this valuable, but uncertain plant. The black blast attaches itself to the stem, and to the leaves of the canes; is likewise an accumulation of insects; and if they be in any quantities (as I have to my loss and disappointment seen them), they will not only check, and in a great measure suppress their vegetation, but very severely affect the quantity and quality of the expected produce. I have seen many pieces together so generally covered with them, that they have (and in the course of a few days) become almost absolutely black; and in which case, the poor negroes are, for a time, blinded by the numbers which fly from every plant; and which, when thus universally covered, produce but little sugar, and that, not only of an indifferent grain and dark complexion, but very strongly impreg-

nated with the same taint, both in taste and smell.

To eradicate the yellow blast, many experiments have been made, but without success; and the only persevering remedy suggested, has been to throw up the cultivation of the land thus affected, for some time; and before it shall be again planted, to have it carefully and repeatedly ploughed. But I know not any thing, excepting uncommon cleanliness, heavy seasons, or a violent storm, that will effectually disperse the blast.

There are some particular pieces, nay patches only of those particular pieces, that will, for years together, be full of the blast, without communicating its pernicious influence to the adjoining canes; and whenever this shall happen, the parts thus affected should not be disturbed, but suffered to remain unmolested to the very last cuttings of the crop.

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The rats are very great enemies to this plant, but particularly in proportion to its advance to ripeness. It will hardly be credited how very numerous these reptiles are in the Island of Jamaica, and what destruction, especially if the canes be lodged, they annually commit upon a plantation: in a not less proportion do they injure the crops than a diminution of five hogheads of sugar in every hundred, without adding much in proportion, by those that are tainted, to the increase of rum.

Many and unremitting endeavours are daily put in practice for their extirpation; but there has not yet been any method devised, that can, with any probability of success, be deemed efficacious. Great numbers are taken off by poison immediately after the crop, and when their natural food is apparently exhausted; many are killed by dogs; and prodigious quantities destroyed by the negroes in the fields, when the canes are cut; and such innumerable proportions by the watchmen who are

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dispersed over the different parts of the plantation, to protect them from general trespass, and the particular destruction of these animals, that I was informed by a man of observation and veracity, that upon the estate of which, as overseer, he had charge, not less than nine and thirty thousand were caught by the latter, and, if I remember right, in the short space of five or six months.

If they commit such havock in the fields, what may not be expected from their depredations in places more confined; in the poultry-yards, the out-houses, and domestic mansions; and more particularly in those places which are set apart for the reception of different provisions?

In some parts of the Island, particularly in that of St. Thomas in the East, these vermin, I am told, have been greatly diminished, and in some parts have been utterly exterminated by an ant, which is known by the name of Tom Raffles: but  
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then I have been likewise informed, that the remedy was worse than the disease; for in some places, so excessive is their number, and so destructive their rapacity, that where they have not rats to encounter, they will attack the poultry; and have been even known to blind, by their numbers and perseverance, not only the eyes of lambs and calves, but even those of negro children. To avoid their importunity at night, it is not uncommon to have the feet of the bed-posts immersed in water; and the nursing mothers often place the bowls (or cradles) in which their infants are laid, suspended over any stream of water that may happen to be adjoining.

The caterpillars will, in the course of a few days, when the leaves are tender, and not more than two or three months old, eat down a very considerable field of canes: they sometimes destroy, and will sometimes act as a manure. I never knew any yield so well, as some that recovered  
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this apparent destruction. To the pastures they frequently do great injury; and if they once get into a cotton plantation, they will destroy, by their numbers, and the velocity of their depredations, the prospects of the approaching, and the general hopes of a future crop.

The north winds (or the Norths, as they are indiscriminately called in Jamaica) may sometimes be, indeed they often are, prejudicial to the canes. They generally set in about November, and continue to blow (and frequently with such violence, as either to knock them down or break them), until about a week or a fortnight after Christmas; at which season are expected periodical rains; and which, when they fall, are of infinite, as they are of necessary service to the young canes, corn, and provisions.

During the continuation of this wind, the climate is, by comparison, extremely cool; and notwithstanding the prejudice  
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too commonly and unreasonably entertained against a tropical climate, is not only bearable, but pleasant: it is, however, reckoned pernicious to negroes, and to those white people who are advanced in life, and who labour under feeble and declining constitutions.

Should the expected rains not fall (which are anticipated with almost as much certainty as the overflowings of the Nile), or should the winds I have above described, continue their violent exertions for any length of time, they will of course occasion a long and destructive drought; the face of the country will assume a new complexion, the atmosphere be marked by a yellow dye; the mountains will appear approximated, a warm haze will cover their summits; the verdure will insensibly decline, the rivers sink, the torrents become dry; and the cattle, the sheep, and the goats, will perish for want of that element which in some places runs to waste,

waste, and which in others it would be a blessing to have confined.

When the air has continued for a long time adust, it is not unpleasing to see the effects of whirlwinds without a breeze; to see the trash carried up in eddies, without any rational cause of its ascension; to see the water-spout or charging or discharging its rotatory contents; to observe large fields of canes either broken or destroyed; and lastly, to see immense trees up-rooted, and their broken branches whirled into the air, and hurried out of sight, without being enabled to account for these unexpected exertions of an element, which there was not even a zephyr to awake, much less a tempest to alarm.

The canes are subject to drought at different seasons of the year: if rains do not fall for some time after they are planted, as before observed, they will perish in the ground; and others must be put in as supplies in their stead; and this species of cultivation

tivation is always laborious, and oftentimes uncertain, upon a plantation. They will suffer very considerably, if, in May or June, the seasons should have been so heavy as to throw them down; for, if they be lodged thus early, and the rains shall continue to fall with their accustomed deluge, they will of course shoot out at the eyes, or joints, and almost take an immediate root; and it frequently happens that suckers, which arise from this secondary kind of vegetation, become so numerous and thick, as to extirpate almost entirely the first-planted cane; by which disappointment of original and reasonable expectation, very little produce will be found to result from them in sugar; nor will it be worth while to let them stand, and to be occasionally cut, to assist the crop of rum.

The most profitable plan would therefore be, to take them off for plants, of which they will, in this state, produce a great abundance: and although a *few* acres  
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of tall and succulent canes will afford a very great proportion of this description, yet is it astonishing to be convinced how *many* acres of indifferent ones it will require to complete the cultivation of a moderate proportion of land. I have met with only one instance, during my experience, where the suckers have matured into sugar-canes, and produced any reasonable quantity of produce; whereas, if the land be good, and a proper care be taken of it, a piece thus injured in its first growth, may be made to furnish a number of excellent and constant plants, and for a considerable number of years after its supposed destruction.

They often suffer very considerably at the end of the year, if the north wind should continue to blow (as before observed) with uncommon dryness (for they sometimes set in with flying showers), or should they be protracted beyond their common period. But should a very severe drought commence, and be continued at  
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the latter end of the crop, it will not only injure and burn up the young canes, but consume to sticks even those that are already ripe; will consequently defeat the hopes of the present, and help to mar the anticipation of a plentiful harvest.

Of one of the most severe droughts that have happened for many years, I was an unfortunate witness, in the year 1786; during the severity of which, it was calculated that at least one hundred head of cattle were known to perish every day, in those parts of the Island that were affected by its continuance: and from the information I was enabled to obtain from the different sufferers, I am apt to conclude, that, for a given period, this amount, however apparently great, might have been doubled, and for a few weeks trebled, without any exaggeration. Not only the woods on the mountains, and the herbage on the plains, but the very ground, and to a considerable depth, was on fire in some places, for days; and as every spark communicated like tinder,

der, it required a painful care, and extraordinary vigilance, to prevent the blaze of destruction from communicating to the buildings, than which few calamities in that part of the world could be more severely felt, or their consequence with more difficulty and anxiety restored. The canes may be re-produced, the provision grounds re-planted; the trash-houses (although at first a heavy expence) may be re-built: but it is not in the power of every planter (indeed it is in the ability but of very few), to erect a new set of works, although upon the foundations of the old, and upon the most contracted plan, without feeling the pressure of it for many years at least, if not for ever. And yet in a country in which accidents of fire, from a variety of causes and mortal casualties, or the visitations of heaven, so frequently happen, it is astonishing to see what sums of money are squandered away upon the erection of buildings which fire may so soon consume, or tempests overturn; and the purposes of which might be as conveniently answered

swered by lowly constructions, which are not subject to the same calamities, and which, in cases of misfortunes, might be repaired without much expence or trouble.

A cane-piece on fire is a most tremendous object: no flame is more alarming, none more rapid; and the fury and velocity with which it burns and communicates, cannot possibly be described, excepting by those who have been interested and disappointed witnesses of its destruction. If a fire happen in a cane-piece that has been lately cut, shall catch, and spread upon hilly land, and be observable at night, it will be seen to run in *circular* lines corresponding to the direction of the banks between which the canes have been *regularly* planted; and as the stream of flame is uncommonly brilliant, and when increased by the wind, is, by intenseness of heat, become pale, it partakes much of the colour and appearance of liquid lava, when it bursts in torrents from the side of a volcanic mountain, and presents a scene with which even

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the enthusiasm of Sir William Hamilton could not fail to be pleased, and which might possibly awaken a curiosity which has been so often tried in the examination and description of the dangerous magnificence of *Ætna*, or the more humble and less terrific eruptions of *Vesuvius*.

To attempt a description of that tremendous scenery of Nature which Brydone has immortalized, would be an insult to language; and to dwell upon the simple operations of fire, where he has dived into the chymic operations of lava, and its extraordinary accompaniments, would argue a presumption which I hope I do not possess, and detract from that science before which I have a pleasure to bend.

A trash-house in flames, from its size and contiguity to other buildings, is certainly a most dreadful and alarming sight; but has not (if I may venture to use the expression) so much of the picturesque scenery of destruction as the cane-piece in flames:

flames: as the mass is more ponderous and concentered, the fire is more confined, and of consequence does not admit of so sudden a blaze. It is the celerity of communication that brightens the fire-work, or that gives variety and surprise to an illumination.

So soon as a fire is observed upon a plantation, the shell resounds, and the listening echoes receive and return the blast; the neighbouring estates and settlements imbibe, and constantly repeat, the shrill alarm: every ear is attentive, and every voice is silent. It continues its complaint upon the hills: it now declines and dies away; but, alas! to swell with a louder note, to supplicate assistance, or forbode despair. Every neighbour hears, is alert, and flies: if he come in time to assist, he is happy; if too late, his intention was good, his conscience acquits, and he can only console. Upon such occasions, the philanthropy of the Island is very commendably notorious. A man cannot suf-

fer a signal calamity in Jamaica without pity at least, if not assistance: and this principle pervades every part of the Island, and every community of men.

The rolling of the smoke, the spreading of the flames, and the cracking of the canes, combine their dreadful influence with that of the raging element; and should the fire happen in the night, which is accompanied with particular terrors of its own, it is truly sublime; and might be contemplated, with some degree of pleasing horror, did not reflection awaken at the melancholy scene, and the compassionate idea of the sufferings of another, engulph every principle but what might be directed to the alleviation of his misfortune, to the reparation of his loss, and to the dread lest a similar accident should befall himself. The shells upon such an occasion, and at such a time, have a very awful effect; and the appearance of the negroes amidst the flames, their fears and exertions, contrasted with the noisy impatience of the looks of the white people,

people, and the groups of horses and mules in the back-ground, together with that general motion and confusion that attend destruction, are striking particulars in this dreadful scenery.

Amidst the appearance of this calamity, should any of the cane-pieces happen to be on the side of hills, and near a river, the reflections therein of the clouds that roll in black and fiery volumes, the paly light that shoots out at the communication of every blaze, and the umbered appearance of the negroes, that in a certain manner help to darken the shade, are seen to double, as it were, the dreadful landscape, and to add the picturesque of horror to the destruction that is blazing round.

Should the moon happen, at such a time, to be in her meridian, and a flitting cloud discharge a shower, the temporary conflict of the opposing elements would add very considerably to the romantic appearance of the night, and would in some

measure resemble those awful contrasts of fire and water that are frequently observed in the eruptions of a volcano, and which I had once in my life the pleasure to observe.

Of this uncommonly sublime, and the more sublime as it is a destructive, scenery, the effect would be truly awful, if committed to the canvass of an intelligent and enthusiastic genius, and expressed in the forcible manner that Mr. Deane has described Vesuvius ; and which exhibition cannot help bringing back to the mind the remembrance of a man whose talents might have afforded amusement to others, and profit to himself ; but whose abilities were lost to the world, and whose life was closed at an early period, in disappointment and neglect, and in bodily feeling and mental distress.

When a fire in a piece of standing canes is perceived in the time of crop, the common practice is, to cut through a particular  
portion

portion of the field, to prevent the spark of communication from increasing a more general conflagration: and it is amazing with what celerity and skill this service of danger is commonly effected.

If a fire shall happen among the trash, after the canes shall be removed, and shall spread with any violence, the most expeditious and certain method of extinguishing it, is found to be the heaping of it up on the extremities of the piece; and thus, by making a counter-fire, and accumulating the combustible matter around that spot, to give a contrary direction to the rapidity of the flames. The intervals that are purposely left between the different pieces, will sometimes serve as a barrier to the progress of the conflagration; but as the grass that grows upon them is often as dry as the trash itself, very great caution should be used, that they do not catch the neighbouring blaze; and which it would, at all events, be very difficult to prevent, if there be not water at hand, or plan-

tain or other succulent leaves by which the sparks that catch may be easily extinguished.

After a sharp and continued drought, a sky in flames, and the sublunary earth on fire, it is astonishing to see how sudden a revolution will melt the first into rain, and cause vegetation to spring from the embers of the last! The late tremendous and afflicting scenes have soon their contrast: the rains no sooner fall, than Nature is instantaneously and visibly revived, and a cheerful verdure is observed to arise, and is shortly seen to triumph over desolation and despair. It is in this sudden change, that the elements of water and of fire seem to labour to obtain and support a transcendancy; and that the sky puts on its most magnificently ærial, and the earth her most picturesque and splendid forms.

The man who can contemplate the rolling of the clouds that pace the mountains with gigantic strides, with the idea of representations

tions in his mind; can ruminate upon their masses, and expatiate upon their forms; who can take pleasure in the beautiful varieties of vapours and of fogs, of ideal caverns and imaginary hills, of dotted forests and of silver lakes, of shadowy vallies and of open plains, of bounded islands and extensive seas;—the man, I say, who can take delight in these objects of Nature, and range over their alternate and concentered beauties, with a painter's eye, and is willing to treasure them up in his mind for future imitation, will hardly find a spot, I should imagine, upon the habitable globe, in which these objects may be studied with greater effect, than in the clouds, the fogs, and moon-lights of that Island which I have feebly endeavoured to describe.

The rainy seasons generally commence in April, and continue, with trifling intermissions, until November, or even Christmas. Before the hurricane of 1780, they were rather periodical; but they are *now* somewhat irregular, although they do not  
vary

vary much when they begin to fall, in continuation of time, or decrease of deluge.

Between one and two o'clock, the clouds begin to brew, the sky is obscured, and the heat increases in proportion to the obnebulation of the sun: the atmosphere is, for a time, peculiarly heavy; the thermometer rises from eighty to ninety degrees; the clouds are black, the day obscured, the winds asleep, and Nature still. A distant thunder breaks the silence; the lightning becomes frequent; the winds arise; the sea awakes; the woodlands murmur; and the canes, the plantains, and the palms, begin their plaintive whispers. The rain descends in spouts; the torrents roar among the mountains; the rivers swell; and their accumulations sweep through, and overflow, the plains. In this noisy conjunction and awful turmoil of the elements, the reflective mind is buried, for a time, in the silent contemplation of the scene; and affects to feel, at least, if not to be romantically absorbed in the anticipation of the sublime.

The

The thunder and the lightning, the wind and the rain, very seldom continue longer, in the seasons, than two or three hours in a day (although I have known them last, in the month of October, and without intermission, for three together); the sky, afterwards, by perceptible degrees, becomes serene, the atmosphere clear; and the nights are calm and settled.

These periodical descents of the deluge (for in Jamaica you can hardly call the rains by a milder name), and their consequent effects, introduce a great variety of magnificent and splendid masses in the clouds, which breaking before the thunder, and illuminated by the solar rays, which cause successive rainbows to glitter with the full reflex of their prismatic dyes, and these softened to the eye by the intervening shower, produce a scenery which cannot fail to strike; and the representation of which, the glowing colours of a Rubens, and perhaps of a Rubens alone, were calculated to describe.

I have

I have seen, more than once, this magnificent and beautiful display of Nature represented in his landscapes: but the views of Flanders will not admit of that dignity, and those impressions of the sublime, which are characteristics of tropical climates: and notwithstanding the scenery of Wales and Scotland, and the mountainous parts of France and Italy, and the tremendous elevations and gloomy vallies of Switzerland, may, in some respects, surpass them in the grand and terrible of Nature; yet the approach of a storm in Jamaica, with all its accompaniments of clouds, of rain, of thunder, and of lightning, excite ideas which, by comparison, are more romantic; and which, if seen and examined, would strongly justify the assertion I have made.

The traveller, in the West-Indies, may with convenience and certainty pursue his journey, as he knows at what period he may expect the rains to fall, and when to cease. If he rise early in the morning, a  
con-

considerable proportion of it may be performed before the heat becomes intolerable. In the middle of the day he may lie by ; and if he be of a philosophical turn, may enjoy the external pelting of the rain and the drivings of the shower, may trace the swellings of the river, the blastings of the lightning, the fury of the winds ; and tremble at the breaking peals of the sudden, or listen with enthusiasm to the declining voice of the distant, thunder. He may afterwards behold the clouds by degrees disperse, and a new heaven illuminate the landscape : he may observe the light to tremble upon the waters, and the sun-beams pierce into the vallies, or smile upon the plains. He may see Nature as it were revived ; and the drops of rain either glitter upon, or fall from, the trees. He may view the patient ox regain the furrow, or the herds expatiate upon the pasture : he may hear the chiding ewe, or see the lambkin frolic : and he may, lastly, behold with pleasure and with gratitude, a renovation of the rural scene, and may follow its

Vol. I. charms,

charms, in his mind, until the eye can no longer trace the horizon, the night shall close its beauties, and he shall not be conscious of the solemn hour, until he shall suddenly perceive the moon-beam tip the mountain, and the planets and the stars engem the blue expanse. And happy is the man who can feast his corporeal and his mental sight with such enchanting lucubrations !

A thunder-storm in Jamaica, in the height of the rainy seasons, is not only very grand, but awfully terrific ; and would require the united powers that simplified the pen of Thomson, or sublimed the descriptions of Milton, to do it an adequate and a corresponding justice. The incessant darting of the lightning, the constant roaring of the thunder that shakes by repercussion, and as it were to the centre, every thing around, and which frequently bursts, and in an apparently clear sky, with one sudden and horrible crash ; and which, when discharged

ged (if I may use the expression), the echoes take up, and cause to mutter, or faintly die away among the hills:—the rains that pour down in torrents, the trees that bend, or break beneath the blast, the herds and flocks that turn their backs to receive the deluge:—all these images of Nature that bespeak the terrible, and present the descriptive; that threaten destruction, or anticipate plenty; are to be found in those regions where the skies, alas! are more often convulsed, than Nature is calm and settled.

At the commencement of a storm, the grandeur of the clouds that accumulate and roll in heavy masses, that shake the summits of the forests as they move along, that seem to threaten Nature with an immediate deluge; and then, as it were, for a time suspend their darkened progress, and at last dispart; and, after a few sudden drops, withdraw their terrors, and insensibly die away amidst the mountains, and permit the sun to glitter on the plains; the  
 skies

skies to brighten with varied dyes; and to assume (at the dispersion of the vapours) the representation, in the clouds, of every image that is obvious, pleasing and sublime;—are circumstances that awfully prevail, and pleasingly distinguish those scenes which my pen, alas! is too feeble to describe. In these you may form the picturesque appearance of Otaheite, the magnificent scenery of the Bay of Kingston, and the tremendous expression of that of Naples.

Of the picturesque representations of the clouds in Jamaica, there is an almost daily and unspeakable variety; and the sun-set of that climate has charms to arrest the regard, and to fix the attention of every beholder. At this period of the day, when the sun-beams linger upon the mountains, and seem reluctantly to withdraw their glories from the plain; when they just begin to die away in the horizon, or tremble by reflection upon the swelling wave;—what delightful appearances, or  
glowing

glowing with lustre, or softened by shade, may not be imagined in the stationary, or lamented in the vanescent clouds of that warm and vapoury region? What imaginary islands, with all their discriminations of hill and dale, of light and gloom, of bays and promontories, of rocks and woods, of rivers and seas, may not be traced in the transcendently beautiful skies of that fervid climate, and treasured up for future embellishment, by those who study Nature, and who delight to copy her charms, not only in her elevation, but decline?

From the numberless observations I have made upon the various and romantic nebulations of that country, I shall take the liberty to select, with diffidence, the charms of one. The situation from which it was taken, was particularly adapted to the contemplation of an evening scene; and all the images, enlightened by the sun-beam, were such as a painter would wish to crowd into the display of a chaste and extensive landscape.

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The house immediately fronted the west, and stood rather upon a rising, than a hill: it possessed all the advantages, in point of prospect, of the last, without any one inconvenience resulting from elevation. It was seated upon a lawn of a most smooth and beautiful green; and by way of fore-ground to the picture I am about to draw, there was seen a very rich group of different trees; among which, the palms were the most conspicuous, and which, as they intersected the light, appeared to glow with various hues. On the opposite side, but farther removed from observation, there stood a negro village, with all its accompaniments of plantain-trees and cocoa-nuts, of bamboos and shrubs, and which seemed to be illuminated by a softer tone, and to serve as a contrast to the glittering scenes around. Between these objects there was spread out an extensive plain, upon which the sun-beams burst with setting fervour, and made brightly conspicuous the various buildings that were dotted upon its surface; and beyond which, the eye was arrested

rested by hills that, from their distance, had only the appearance of incipient clouds; and on one side, the eye was delighted by a prospect of the sea, and lost itself upon a sail that just seemed a speck upon the horizon.

Above this landscape, the following view presented itself to the imagination, in the clouds; and struck for a considerable time, and fixed without a variation, the attention of the sight.

In the middle region of the air, I could fancy an exact resemblance, as given us in the prints, of the Island of Otaheite, as magnificently swelling into hills, as sweetly declining into vallies; as imperceptibly lost in plains, and as insensibly melted into the ocean. The mountains appeared to be covered with lofty trees; their declivities, to be fringed with tufted foliage, receiving transient shade, or tinged with partial light; while the green expanse of waters returned their beauties, and by re-

flection gave a double charm. The setting sun, that glimmered on the sight, seemed to hang with rapture upon its own creation; and, while it warmed the mind with a variety of images, it made me lament that I had not with me an artist that could, like Robertson, describe.

Around this imaginary island, there flowed a sea as smooth as glass; over which was seen to hang a haze, as if a zephyr had lately breathed upon its polished bosom. The declining sun-beams seemed to tremble upon the waves; the majestic orb was not yet sunk in the horizon, but appeared to moderate the effulgence of its rays, and to spread a saffron glow, which insensibly melted into softer tones, as it by degrees approached the enraptured sight. A long neck of land stretched out into the ocean, and formed a succession of bays; in which was seated a pleasing variety of smaller islands; and between which there appeared to sail a number of boats, that traversed from one to the other in various directions,

directions, while a wood of masts was seen to catch the sun-beam in the offing.

At the back of the large island, there swelled another, the sides of which were of the same form and height with the opposite cliffs, and had the appearance of having been disparted by the convulsions of an earthquake: a narrow channel flowed between them; and the air and the rocks were marked by a multiplicity of birds that could be just observed as specks of white, that flickered the blue expansion of the heavens.

The fore-ground of this vapoury landscape was a long tongue of land, declining from the right to the left, from a gentle rising to the level of the sea, and was richly adorned with cocoa-nut trees, bamboos, and palms; with numberless aloes in blossom, and other aspiring shrubs; and which sensibly diminished in pride of vegetation, until they sunk at last, as they approached the eye,

into the humble dock, the thistle, and the grafs. This projecting land appeared to give a curve to a most beautiful and shaded bay; at the end of which were dotted cities; and from which were seen to swell the tower that caught, and the rising spire that returned, the setting rays.

On the left, and in the second distance, were two or three small islands; upon the level shore of which, there appeared to be fishermen hanging up their nets to dry, and some making fast their boats by a single oar. The nets and baskets that were confusedly piled upon them, were reflected in the waves, which a breeze had just disturbed, and which gently urged the ripples that broke around their keels, in imaginary murmurs to the shore.

The inferior objects that contribute to the variety of a Jamaica landscape, are not less pleasing than they will be found uncommon. The verdant timidity of the bamboo cane, that bends with reluctant  
humility

humility before the wind, and which submits its picturesque and lovely plumes to the soft intrusions of the breeze, or shrinks with dread before the impending tempest; the plaintive whispers of the sugar-cane, the plantain, and the palm, which sigh, as if to deprecate the havock that may instantaneously ensue; and if you take into the account, the various odours that the zephyrs rise from the perfumed blossoms of the coffee, the shaddock, the orange, and the lime, from the Spanish and Arabian jessamine, from the double tuberoſe, and other shrubs of particular and fragrant excellence; you will naturally conclude that the garden scenery does not give place in humble beauties, to the magnificent display of the views around.

It is delightful, after the rain is past, and the silver drops hang trembling upon the leaves, to hear the responsive concerts of the sweet-tongued nightingales, which strain their throats with a variety of modulation; and such as is not, I believe, surpassed by the wildest melody of the

the European forest. Their song is particularly charming at the dead of night, when silence itself seems to be asleep, and the moon shines forth with all its glory; when not a cloud obscures the scene, nor a breathing zephyr interrupts their elegies: when they pour out their little souls, as if to comfort the enanguished mind, and to soothe the bed of sickness! This solitary and simple music, is oftentimes more congenial to the feelings than the bursts of concerts, or the dying cadence of the sweetest voice: it is the unadorned melody of Nature: and the nightingale may be compared to the other minstrels of the grove, in the same manner that Shakespeare is pre-eminently distinguished amongst our poets.

Sweet Philomel! whose liquid note  
Is heard on ev'ry breeze to float!  
Oh! sweetest of the woodland quire  
(Whose tuneful elegies inspire  
The loit'ring moon with tears to melt,  
As if the plaintive song she felt)  
Oh, eccho back my piteous plain!  
Nor be the faithful eccho vain!  
Dirge then, O dirge, with tender close,  
And soothe th' *afflicted* to repose!

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The

The most formidable enemy the sugarcane has to encounter, and the principal dread of those latitudes in which it grows, must, from its destructive pre-eminence, be deemed the hurricane. The fell tornado, and the burning plains of Africa, have only sands and deserts to witness their malignant fury; but the wind which, from its effects, I am about to describe, sweeps through the regions of cultivation and expence, and reduces, and almost with a single blast, the independent to distress, the affluent to want, and the feeling to despair. It is unpleasant to speak of public calamities, if those calamities can come home to ourselves: and it is so common for those who suffer but little to complain, that those who suffer much are hardly credited in the enumeration of misfortunes. The first impression of things is generally magnified; and the distance which removes us from the seat of action, is the cause of disbelief; and fancy is often supposed to be called in to the aid of truth. But what I am about to write, is a plain and a simple narrative

narrative, experienced by numbers, and (if so humbled an individual may dare to speak) most awfully felt by myself; although I am conscious that my loss was only like a bubble in the ocean, when compared to the magnitude of the general mass. The shock which the suffering parishes sustained, very few portions of those parishes will ever recover. A more general destruction in the extent of a given proportion of land, hath rarely happened; and the hurricane of 1780, will be ever acknowledged as a visitation that descends but once in a century, and that serves as a scourge to correct the vanity, to humble the pride, and to chastise the imprudence and arrogance of men.

The following description, which immediately and naturally arose from the melancholy subject, when the facts were fresh, and the ruins, as it were, before my eyes, will not, I trust, be deemed foreign to the general tendency of these remarks; and I shall be, I hope, excused, if I endeavour  
to

to awaken the recollection of calamities past, particularly as in those calamities the poor negroes had likewise their portion of disappointment and affliction.

This destructive hurricane began by gentle and almost imperceptible degrees, between twelve and one o'clock, on the morn of the 3d of October, and in the year 1780. There fell, at first, a trifling rain, which continued, without increase, until ten o'clock ; about which time the wind arose, and the sea began to roar in a most tremendous and uncommon manner. As yet, we had not any pre-sentiment of the distress and danger which it was soon afterwards our unhappy fortune to encounter : and although between two and three o'clock in the afternoon, we saw the subordinate buildings begin to totter and fall around us ; yet we did not think it necessary to provide, at that time, for our present or future safety. We now observed, with some emotion and concern, a poor pigeon endeavour, with fruitless struggle, to regain

gain its nest: it fluttered long in the air; and was so weakened at last, that it was driven away by the wind, and in almost a moment was carried entirely out of sight.

As great events are sometimes the consequences of small beginnings, and as simple occurrences are often as striking as great concerns, I could not help dwelling with commiseration upon what I had seen, and of anticipating, in some measure, the loss and inconvenience, though not the real *destruction*, of what soon afterwards ensued.

A poor discouraged ewe, intimidated by the terrors of the night, had found its way into the distant quarter of the house, which, at the time of her retreat, must have been wholly neglected; but to which it was afterwards, as our last resort, our unfortunate destiny to repair. She lay with patient cold, and fearful trembling, amidst the joists; nor could she be displaced by the importunity of kicks and cuffs that were

were incessantly dealt around her. She became a pathetic sufferer in the succeeding calamity; and he must have been a brute, indeed, and more deserving of the appellation she bore, who could have persevered in forcing her from such a seeming protection, or could have been envious of that safety, which, from her unwillingness to remove, it was natural to think that she at that time enjoyed. I must confess, that I tried to dispossess her, but I tried in vain; and I have since reflected, that her preservation was as dear to her as mine was to me: and I feel a real comfort in repeating those exquisitely humane and tender lines of Ovid, which are so feelingly descriptive of the fate of this most useful and patient animal.

Every thing claims a kindred in misfortune: it levels like death; but death, alas! to some comes too late; and to others it come too early. In a short time, perhaps, it was the fate of the poor meek creature above described, to feel its stroke. I

might have caused, unknowingly, its execution; and might have feasted upon its flesh. The very idea chills my blood, and brings to my mind the remembrance of the dreadful situation of Pierre Viaud.

An act of dire necessity may be certainly excused; but to destroy (for the gratification of an appetite which we have in common with brutes) *that* which has been used to live in a domestic and in a cherished state around us, would argue an insensibility, from which every feeling mind must naturally revolt: and I should hope, that there are but few people who could eat of that kid, which they had seen lick the butcher's hand at the very moment that the knife was about to deprive its innocence of existence; and when it supplicated, with an almost human cry, its preservation of life, and with a blandishment so particularly expressive of tenderness and pity.

From the morning until four o'clock in the afternoon, the wind continued to blow  
with

with increasing violence from the north and east: but from that time, having collected all its powers of devastation, it rushed with irresistible violence from the south; and in about an hour and half after that period, so general and persevering were its accumulated effects, that it scarcely left a plantain-tree, a cane, or a building, uninjured in the parish. At about four o'clock, we found it impossible to secure the house against the increasing impetuosity of the wind, which began to displace the shingles, uplift the roof, to force the windows, and to gain an entrance on every side: and its hasty destruction but too fully proved how soon, and how universally, it succeeded! We were now driven from the apartments above, to take shelter in the rooms below; but there we were followed by fresh dangers, and stupefied by fresh alarms. The dæmon of destruction was wasted in the winds, and not a corner could escape its malignant devastation. While we were looking, with apprehension and terror around us, the roof, rafters, plates, and  
walls

walls of six apartments, fell in, and immediately above our heads: and the horrid crash of glasses, furniture, and floors, occasioned a noise and uproar, that may be more easily felt, than the weakness of my pen can possibly describe.

I will not attempt (indeed my abilities and language are unequal to the task) to awaken the sensibility of others, by dwelling upon private misfortunes, when the losses of many are entitled to superior regard: but egotism may be surely allowed in a narrative of this kind, where general comparisons must in some measure describe individual sufferings, and where what *one* has felt, has been the lot of *numbers*: and where a person has identically seen, and been involved in the same destruction, it is difficult to keep clear of expressions that do not immediately apply to, and speak the language of, self.

The situation of the unhappy negroes  
who poured in upon us soon as their  
houses

houses were destroyed, and whose terrors seemed to have deprived them of sense and motion, not only very particularly augmented the confusion of the time, but very considerably added, by their whispers and distress, to the scene of general suspense, and the fluctuations of hope and alarm. Some lamented, by anticipation, the loss of their wives and children, of which their fears had deprived them; while others regretted the downfall of their houses, of which they had so lately been the unfortunate spectators.

It will be difficult to conceive a situation more terrible than what my house afforded from four o'clock in the afternoon until six o'clock the ensuing morning. Driven, as we were, from room to room, while the roofs, the floors, and the walls, were tumbling over head, or falling around us; the wind blowing with a noise and violence that cannot even now be reflected upon without alarm; the rain pouring down in torrents; and the night which seemed to

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fall,

fall, as it were in a moment, uncommonly dark, and the gloom of which we had not a single ray to enliven, and the length of which we had not either spirits or resolution, by conversation, to cheer! The negro huts, as I before observed, were at this time destroyed; and the miserable sufferers rushed into the house, and began such complaints and lamentations, as added very considerably to the discomforts, and much increased the almost before unspeakable distresses, of the scene. One poor woman, in particular (if *real* philanthropy would not disdain to make a discrimination of colour), was, in a very particular and sensible manner, entitled to pity. Her child, and that a favourite, was nearly buried in the ruins of her house that fell around her: she snatched it, with all the inconsiderate impatience of maternal fondness, from the expectations of a sudden fate: she strained it to her arms in simple love and unassisted protection, and flew to deposit her tender burden in the retreat of distant safety: she flew in vain: the tempest

pest reached her, and swept the child, unconscious of danger, from her folding arms, and dashed her hopes and comforts to the ground. She recovered, and to her bosom restored the pleasing charge: she endeavoured to soothe it with her voice; but it was silent: she felt it, and she found it cold: she screamed, she lamented, and she cursed: nor could our sympathy console her sorrows, our remonstrances restrain her violence, nor our authority suppress her execrations. She felt like a mother, although an apathist might say she did not feel like a Christian. What a cold and illiberal distinction! Give a Negro religion, and establish him in either the principles of obedience, or the knowledge of endurance, and he will not disgrace that tenet which shall be recommended by practice. Her lamentations were natural, and of consequence affecting; and gave additional despondency to a night that was already too miserable to bear an augmentation of sorrow.

The darkness of the night, the howling of the winds, the growling of the thunder, and the partial flashes of the lightning that darted through the murky cloud, which sometimes burst forth with a plenitude of light, and at others hardly gave sufficient lumination to brighten the terrified aspect of the negroes, that, with cold and fear, were trembling around; the cries of the children who were exposed to the weather, and who (poor innocents!) had lost their mothers in the darkness and confusion of the night; and the great uncertainty of general and private situation combined; could not fail to strike the soul with as deep as it was an unaccustomed horror. In the midst of danger, in the awful moments of suspense, and when almost sunk by despair, we prayed for more frequent lightning to gild the walls, for more heavy thunder to out-roar the blast, in the philosophic consolation that they might purge the atmosphere, and disperse the storm: but, alas! they were but seldom seen, or feebly heard; as if afraid of combining

bining the influence of light with the destruction of sound, and of raising upon the ground of terror, the superstructure of despair!

When the night was past, and our minds hung suspended between the danger we had escaped, and the anticipation of what we might expect to ensue; when the dawn appeared as if unwilling to disclose the devastation that the night had caused; when the sun-beams peeped above the hills, and illuminated the scene around—just God! what a contrast was there exhibited between that morning and the day before! a day which seemed to smile upon Nature, and to take delight in the prospects of plenty that waved around, and which produced, wherever the eye could gaze, the charms of cultivation, and the promise of abundance; but which fallacious appearances, alas! were to be at once annihilated by that extensive and melancholy view of desolation and despair, in which the expectations of the moderate,

and the wishes of the sanguine, were to be so soon ingulphed. The horrors of the day were much augmented by the melancholy exclamation of every voice, and the energetic expression of every hand: some of which were uplifted in acts of execration; some wiped the tears that were flowing from the eye: while some, considering from whence the visitation came, were seen to strike their breasts, as if to chide the groans which it was impossible to restrain. An uncommon silence reigned around: it was the pause of consternation: it was a dumb oratory, that said more, much more, than any tongue could utter. The first sounds proceeded from the mouths of the most patient of Nature's creatures—from the melancholy cow that had lost its calf, and with frequent lowings invited its return; from the mother ewes, that with frequent bleatings recalled their lambs, which were frisking out of sight, unconscious of danger and unmindful of food: and which solemn and pathetic invitations, after such a night, the contemplation of such a scene,

Scene, and the disposition of the mind to receive pathetic impressions, came home with full effect to those who had suffered, but who wished not to complain! If the distresses of the feathered tribe be taken into this description, their natural timidity, their uncertainty of food, of shelter, and domestic protection, be duly considered; trifling as these observations may appear, they certainly help to swell the catalogue of distress, to awaken the sigh of sensibility, and to teach us that their existence and their end are in the hands of the same Creator.

The morning of the 4th of October presented us with a prospect, dreary beyond description, and almost melancholy beyond example; and deformed with such blasted signs of nakedness and ruin, as calamity, in its most awful and destructive moments, has seldom offered to the desponding observations of mankind. The face of the country seemed to be entirely changed: the vallies and the plains, the

mountains and the forests, that were only the day before most beautifully clothed with *every* verdure, were now despoiled of *every* charm; and to an expected abundance and superfluity of gain, in a few hours succeeded sterility and want; and every prospect, as far as the eye could stretch, was visibly stricken blank with desolation and with horror. The powers of vegetation appeared to be at once suspended; and instead of Nature and her works, the mind was petrified by the seeming approach of fate and chaos. The country looked as if it had been lately visited by fire and the sword; as if the tornado had rifled Africa of its sands, to deposit their contents upon the denuded bosom of the hills; as if *Ætna* had scorched the mountains, and a volcano had taken possession of every height. The trees were up-rooted, the dwellings destroyed; and in some places, not a stone was left to indicate the use to which it was once applied. Those who had houses, could hardly distinguish their ruins; and  
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the proprietor knew not where to fix the situation of his former possessions. The very beasts of all descriptions, were conscious of the calamity : the birds, particularly the domestic pigeons, were most of them destroyed ; and the fish were driven from those rivers, and those seas, of which they had before been the peaceful inhabitants. New streams arose, and extensive lakes were spread, where rills were scarcely seen to trickle before ; and ferry-boats were obliged to ply, where carriages were used to travel with safety and convenience. The roads were for a long time impassable among the mountains : the low-lands were overflowed, and numbers of cattle were carried away by the depth and impetuosity of the torrents ; while the boundaries of the different plantations were sunk beneath the accumulated pressure of the inundation.

To give you at once a more general idea of this tremendous hurricane, I shall observe, that not a single house was left  
undamaged

undamaged in the parish ; not a single set of works, trash-house, or other subordinate building, that was not greatly injured, or entirely destroyed. Not a single wharf, store-house, or shed, for the deposit of goods, was left standing : they were all swept away at once by the billows of the sea ; and hardly left behind, the traces of their foundations. The negro houses were, and I believe without a single exception, universally blown down : and this reflection opens a large field for the philanthropist, whose feelings will pity, at least, those miseries which he would have been happy to have had the power to relieve. Hardly a tree, a shrub, a vegetable, or a blade of grass an inch long, was to be seen standing up and uninjured, the ensuing morning : nay, the very bark was whipt from the logwood-hedges, as they lay upon the ground ; and the whole prospect had the appearance of a desert, over which the burning winds of Africa had lately past.

At

At Savanna-la-Mar, there was not even a vestige of a town (the parts only of two or three houses having in partial ruin remained, as if to indicate the situation and extent of the calamity): the very materials of which it had been composed, had been carried away by the resistless fury of the waves, which finally completed what the wind began. A very great proportion of the poor inhabitants were crushed to death, or drowned; and in one house alone, it was computed that forty, out of one and forty souls, unhappily and prematurely perished. The sea drove with progressive violence for more than a mile into the country; and carried terror, as it left destruction, wherever it passed. Two large ships and a schooner were at anchor in the bay, but were driven a considerable distance from the shore, and totally wrecked among the mango-trees upon land.

Were I to dwell upon the numberless singularities of accidents that this dreadful storm occasioned, both among the moun-

tains and on the plains over which it passed; were I to mention its particularities and caprices, and the variety of contingencies which seemed impossible to happen, which imagination might trifle with, but which reason would scarcely believe; in short, were I to mention what I myself saw, and what numbers could witness; I should be afraid to offer them to the serious regard of my readers, in the dread that I might be thought to insult their understandings, and to advance as fiction, what it would be very difficult, indeed, to credit as truth.

The distresses of the miserable inhabitants of Savanna-la-Mar, during the period, and for a long time after the cessation, of the storm, must have exceeded the most nervous, as they would have surpassed the most melancholy powers of description. They were such as ought to have affected (if public losses and private sufferings can ever affect the stony bosoms of the rapacious, and the icy bowels of the interested), they were such, I say, as would  
almost

almost have melted the unfeeling, and have softened the obdurate: but, alas! they could not, in too many instances, divert the rigid purpose, and withhold the rigorous hand of the man of business. Those who the day before were possessed, not only of every domestic comfort, but of every reasonable luxury of life, were now obliged to seek for shelter upon a board; and were exposed, in sickness and affliction, unsheltered and unprovided, to the noisy intrusions of the wind and the cold, and the frequent visitations of the shower.

Were I to enumerate private afflictions in this scene of general devastation and despair, I should require the pathetic pen of that accomplished writer who has given a charm to grief, and a dignity to suffering, in the tender pages of Emma Corbet; and who could so well have expressed by corresponding sentiment, by flowing language, and glowing truth, those mighty sorrows which the father endured for the death of a son, which the wife sustained for the loss

loss of her husband, and for all those minor ties of consanguinity and friendship, which were, at this unhappy and awful period, so generally dissolved.

When we consider how very soon the gay pursuits and flattering appearances of life are destroyed ; how uncertain are our possessions, and how subject to hopes, and how embittered by disappointments, are our pursuits ; it is somewhat extraordinary, that we should be so much attached to the world, should entrust the sun-shine of our days, and without suspicion of a change, to every cloud ; should commit our present happiness to the instability of climate, to the vicissitudes of cold and heat, to the terrors of the tempest, or the pestilential dangers of the calm :—it is astonishing, I again repeat, that we should repose all our comforts, and all our expectations, upon a world so full of mortification, disappointment, and affliction ; when we must be conscious that we must so soon leave that world and all its empty delusions behind.

behind. When we look around, and see people who thought themselves above the reach of want, and reclining, after a long apprenticeship of patient industry and persevering toil, upon the lap of late-earned independency and honest repose; when we see them lose the fruits of exertions thus made, and of comforts thus enjoyed, in one fatal and destructive hour,—what an awful lesson does this reflection awaken in our minds! and how much does it not warn us against building upon a foundation so very precarious at best, and at the best deceitful! But then to see them reduced to this situation, and struggling with infirmities, without the vigour of youth, or the exertions of manhood—without shelter from the weather, protection from power, or meat and drink to comfort the calls of declining nature, or interest enough to rescue them from the impending horrors of a gaol;—the accumulation of such misfortunes, is more than sufficient to excite compassion, but not

not always sufficient, as we find by melancholy example, to obtain relief.

So sudden an alteration, is enough to shake a philosophy that has not before been tried; and such a change is sufficient to excite those complaints which are caused by disappointment, but which may be borne with patience, and finally overcome by calmness and resignation. If *we* meet with affliction, are *we* alone unfortunate? If *we* lose our all, are *we* the only beggars? How many are reduced to penury who cannot work! what numbers perish without help, or are entombed alive without pity! and yet how many emerge from distress and want, by a manly fortitude, and a steady perseverance of conduct! The hand of power may oppress; but innocence has its peculiar triumph, as misery cannot reach the grave; for that is the retreat of Virtue, her consummation, and her end.

I can hardly prevail upon myself to believe, that the united violence of all the winds

Winds that rush from the heavens, blown through one tube, and directed to one spot, could have occasioned such destruction, and in so short a space of time, as that of which I was an unfortunate witness, and of which I am now become the feeble recorder. If we even conclude it possible that the ruins of our buildings could have been occasioned by the concentration of its fury, how are we to account for some phænomena of which we were the suffering and astonished spectators? How account for the sudden irruption of rivers, the lapses of earth, the disunion of rocks, the fissures of mountains, and for other objects of the sublime and terrible, which have changed and disfigured the face of the country? How account for the hollow roarings of the sea, and for the instability of the climate for many months before; and for the dreadful pauses that were observed to take place, before the buildings were entirely overturned? It can hardly be doubted but that heaven and earth were combined in completing our destruction. One ele-

ment alone has been hardly ever known to occasion so extensive a devastation; and the sudden swelling and raging of the sea, we may reasonably attribute to the heavings of the earthquake; to which likewise the general ruin of our houses may be in some measure attributed.

I have seen the ruins of Lisbon; and if it would not almost amount to folly to compare, in this place, great things with small, I should say, that the destruction there, great and melancholy as it was, could only have been, by comparison of buildings and extent of population, more dreadful than that calamity which I have now the presumption to describe. The earthquake at Lisbon happened in the morning; and although it almost universally affected its buildings, yet the productions of the earth received, in consequence, but little damage; whereas the hurricane in Jamaica continued throughout the night, which has its particular terrors, independently of water, and of wind; and  
not

not only blew down every thing within its sweep, but spread desolation through the country round: and I am apt to believe, that the peculiar distresses of the unhappy sufferers of Savanna-la-Mar, must have equalled every thing (I still mean by comparison) that is to be met with in the most melancholy annals of human misfortunes.

To this calamity, another unfortunately succeeded; and the consequences of which were still more fatal to the lives of those who had survived the storm. The stench that arose from the putrefaction of the dead bodies, which remained for many weeks without interment (and to numbers of which the rites of burial could not be administered), occasioned a kind of pestilence, that swept away a great proportion of those who had providentially escaped the first destruction. Almost every person in the town and neighbourhood was affected; and the faculty were rendered incapable, through sickness, to attend their patients,

many of whom perished from the inclemency of the weather, from want of attendance, or supply of food: and to add to the general apprehension, the negroes poured down in troops to the scene of devastation (and, I am sorry to observe, that many white people were detected, upon the spot, of promiscuous plunder); and having made free with the rum that was floating in the inundations, began to grow insolent and unruly; and, by their threats and conduct, occasioned an alarm which it was found necessary, by exertion and caution, at once to suppress: and what the consequences, at such a time of general confusion and dread, might have been, had not the puncheons been immediately staved, can hardly, even at this distance of time, be reflected upon without horror.

That the unenlightened negroes should be led to plunder, when they could do it with safety, and without the curbs of morality and religion to restrain them, is a circumstance not to be wondered at, as it

is consistent with the common depravity of human nature; but that those who ought to be a check upon that licentiousness which they themselves perhaps have taught, should stand forward to divest misery of its last support, and even plunder penury itself of its utmost farthing, is a reflection upon those who can distinguish black from white in the colour of the human skin, but who cannot discriminate what is black from white in the integral conduct of man to man. To take advantage of misfortune, in the time of public calamity and private affliction; and to raise a superstructure, however small, upon the ruins of others; is what, alas! has been too often practised without chastisement, and enjoyed without shame; and if those who are in authority over negroes, and to whom they are taught to look up for the theory as well the practice of integrity, shall set an example of worldly injustice, of rapacity and plunder—the negro who follows this infamous example, unconscious of wrong, is neither a principal, nor an accessory, although he may

possibly be convicted of both; while the real delinquent, who grows rich from infamy, is suffered to escape without trial, and consequently without a punishment. I must therefore from facts conclude, that a reformation in practical manners must begin with the white people in the colonies, before any humane institutions for the relief of the slaves can either be carried into full, or even into partial effect; and this preliminary I shall hereafter endeavour to support by corollaries drawn from fact and experience.

The congratulations of the morning that succeeded the dreadful visitation which has been the subject of these pages, were such as seemed the spontaneous effects of what the bosom felt from the relief of super-eminent dangers: the sad occasion seemed to create new ideas in the mind, and to give pangs to feeling, of which the heart was before unconscious. Many people thought that the day of final judgment was come; and felt it as if it was then too late

late to reflect upon danger: for danger, which implies uncertainty, would then have been a pleasing idea, inasmuch as chance is a contrast to actual despair. It is the natural province of man to suffer; it is an appendage of his condition: but it requires a something more to learn to submit, and by patient submission, without complaint, to bear.

It is natural to suppose that the storm above described, must have given rise to many distressing and pathetic scenes; must upon some occasions have harrowed up the soul, and upon others, have induced a tenderness and pity. Husbands and wives, and parents and children, were in many places separated by the terrors of the night; and separated, as before observed, to meet no more: but upon these dreadful scenes I shall not attempt to dwell, as their remembrance will survive the description of my pen, in the melancholy perpetuity of domestic afflictions; and which numberless families, more or less, to the destruction of

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their

their hopes, and the discomfort of their lives, will long, very long, have cause to lament.

I shall never forget the desolate appearance my house made immediately after this catastrophe, nor the many circumstances of distress and commiseration that alternately shocked and softened the mind. Here a poor infant was seen extracted from the ruins, and its lifeless body consigned to the care and lamentations of its desponding parents; there sat a group of negroes bewailing with heaviness of heart, and all the silent eloquence of streaming eyes, and stretched-out hands, the total destruction of their little fortunes, in the wrecks of their houses, the ruin of their effects, and the demolition of their grounds; while others ran confusedly here and there, without knowing upon what errand they were bent, or where to begin, or how to set about the restoration of their losses, or by what philosophy to console their minds,

There

There were many who wished to be employed in rendering our situations more comfortable, but who, from want of method, and from that hurry which is its constant attendant, were always in the way, and consequently did more harm than good. Some, indeed, succeeded in their exertions; and I should little deserve those comforts I so soon found, in comparison to many others, did I not bear witness to the willing industry and unremitting application of the tradesmen and other negroes who were employed in the reparation of the offices, and in making tight those parts of our temporary dwellings which were destined to the accommodation of ourselves and friends.

It was curious to see the shifts that were made to supply the loss of furniture, and those domestic necessities which the storm had blown away, or the ruins had destroyed. Chairs, tables, beds, and books, were scattered over the pastures; and the materials that had been used in a former,  
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and were now to be applied to future buildings, were collected from a distance, and huddled together: but of these there was but a small proportion that was fit for service; the remainder were either stolen away by, or given to, the negroes, or laid aside for the kindling of those fires which the dampness of the air, and the coldness of the habitations, had either made a matter of luxury, or a case of necessity.

It happened in many places, particularly at Savanna-la-Mar, and in its immediate neighbourhood, that one poor room, and obvious at the same time to the rain and wind, and the intrusions of the negroes, served at once for parlour and kitchen, for bed-chamber and buttery, for wash-house and dairy; for cellar and granary, and for pigs and poultry. Almost every family was reduced to the same level, and hardly knew a difference in misfortune, but by degrees of comparison.

Those

Those animals whose food was corn, were first destroyed; and it is incredible what numbers perished in the night from the inclemency of the weather, or were afterwards sacrificed, before any buildings could be patched up for their protection, or any grain procured for their support: the numbers of wild fowl, indeed, that seemed at different periods of the day to darken the air, and to cover the inundations, made some amends for the destruction of domestic birds, and added something of romantic variety to the desolate scene that was observed around.

When we were driven, in the evening of the hurricane, from the apartments above stairs to take shelter in those below, we forgot, in the hurry and danger of the time, a favourite spaniel, my constant companion, and highly deserving the name she bore; and a parrot, the most entertaining, and the most attached, of the feathered kind I had ever before seen. We could not help lamenting, during the course of the night,

the uncertainty of their situation; and whenever we heard a fallen stone resound upon the floors above us, we anticipated with a real sympathy, the probability of their fate: and I know but few circumstances in life that ever interested my feelings more than the fight, the ensuing morning, of their preservation; and from which I received a more tender satisfaction than I should have found a comfort from the salvation of my buildings. The little Fidelle was running to and fro upon one of the ruins; and with a significant bark, and a sentimental whipping of her tail, expressed her pleasure at our escape; and her congratulations for the safety of the poor animal, whose companion it had been, and which a negro had taken from the rubbish, and from whose hold I impatiently snatched it, and conveyed to safety. I was affected at the expression of the faithful spaniel; and am not even now ashamed of heaving a sigh at the remembrance of the scene. This lamented companion was some time afterwards taken  
off

off by a violent death : I attended her in her last agonies : she knew my voice, and tenderly looked up : she sighed her last farewell—and died.

I had, when a young man, another favourite, from which the above-mentioned Fidelle was lineally derived :—she was my attendant in prosperity, the companion of my travels ; and was hardly ever separated from me for the space of sixteen years. She followed me as long as she had strength enough to follow ; and when she could not accompany me in my rides, or in my walks, she watched my return with impatience at home ; and unmindful of weather, and regardless of food, could not be tempted from her watch, or forego the pleasure which she expected at my return. The necessity of a distant journey called me away : I was obliged to leave her behind : she felt my absence, and with such persevering fidelity, that she disdained all nourishment, and proved herself affectionate and true in death.

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Let not the Stoic be scandalized at these reflections, nor tax that sentiment with weakness which has found affection and gratitude in some of the lower beings of creation. It is Nature unadorned that bespeaks the essence of the God-head; for the more we wander from her rules, the farther do we deviate from truth; for Nature and Truth are the same in sentiment, in application, and in name.

It is in the safe and tranquil simplicity of her enjoyments, that man finds comfort and repose. The bustle of public life is attended with mortification and envy, with contempt and insult; but he whose views are bounded by a narrow span, who looks not for the applause of the\*world but in the silent approbation of his deeds; who is conscious of *internal* rectitude and willingness, although he have not the ability to render *external* service; who is humble in prosperity, and in adversity is patient; who does not envy a man his comforts or his gains,—may smile amidst the tempest,  
and

and may commune with his heart that is lulled to peace; while the elements contend for superiority, up-root the expectations, and engulph the hopes of man; and only leave him at last, the pride of descent, the vapours of a name, a splendid poverty; and that ultimate weakness of degraded consequence,—an expensive funeral, and an escutcheoned end. The money which would have done good in life, is, at the end of existence, consigned to the undertaker, and from him to worms; and to worms must the king, as well as the beggar, be ultimately resolved.

What a lesson is this for pride! what a mortification to him who piques himself upon his family and name, and who entails this senseless legacy on his descendants, unaccompanied by that private virtue, and that public honour, without which their titles are a reproach, and without which their boasted distinctions must ultimately fade!

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The fires that were made before the different houses at night, for some time after the storm, to dispel the dampness of the air, and to warm the chillness of the ground, with the negroes either replenishing the flames, or standing or sitting in conversation around; the temporary hovels that were illuminated by the rising, or alternately grew dark with the descending rays, and the white people sitting in listless languor before their doors, or smoking, or enumerating their hapless fortune, might all together make an interesting picture, and a melancholy record of that calamity which I have ventured to describe; and to which, after my prolix detail, and for the relief of the patient reader, I now willingly bid a last adieu.

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After what has been said, I must have leave to pause.—I would reflect, and draw a conclusion from the premises; but reflection is now too late: from independency and comfort to distress and poverty, are transitions that are not often, in the  
course

course of a few hours, experienced: and so severe and unexpected a shock of fortune, as the tremendous hurricane I have attempted to describe has woefully occasioned, it must require a considerable portion of fortitude, especially from age and infirmity, and with all the consolatory assurances of religion, with an equal and a patient mind, to bear. Many unhappy victims sunk under their afflictions; and sunk, alas! to rise no more: and many, with unremitting, though fruitless exertions, have endeavoured by industry to repair, and by perseverance to forget, their misfortunes; but who have found that the inhumanity of men has trampled upon their endeavours, and set the foot of insult upon the neck of him who was already, alas! but too much humbled.

The planter's loss after a hurricane, particularly after one of so destructive a nature as that which happened in 1780, is certainly, if all circumstances be taken into consideration, not only ruinous to the

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needy

needy man, but more than the independent can support, and such as none but the truly affluent can repair. In proportion to the magnitude of the building, will be its crush, when that building shall be overturned; and even to make new erections upon the foundations, and from the ruins, of the old, will necessarily be attended (even if the planter should have his own tradesmen), not only with immediate trouble and expence, but with considerable delay, and consequent detriment, to the ensuing crop; and greatly retard the progress of that work, and considerably injure those canes, of which a proper care cannot be taken, that are to contribute to the produce of the ensuing year. The young plants, after a storm, may certainly recover; but the *old canes* having been lodged, broken off, or up-rooted, although they be immediately cut after the calamity shall have happened, will yield, at best, but little produce; and as the delay occasioned by the necessary re-edification or reparation of the buildings must be great, so

will *they* continue to suffer in proportion to the procrastination, and hardly give at last the least return.

It may not be uninteresting to those who have no conception of the operations of a sugar estate, to be informed of the minute particulars of the planter's situation, after a hurricane shall have happened: and I cannot better illustrate this painful task, than by recapitulating the consequences of the one which I have so lately attempted to describe.

I suppose, as was pretty generally the case, every cane, every plantain-tree, every fruit-tree, every building, and of every denomination, to be entirely blown down, or partially injured. I suppose this scene of destruction (as it was before mine, and that for a circumference of at least sixty miles) to be before the reader's eye. But how, in such a mass of confusion, you will say, can he divide distances, discriminate objects, and from this destructive *whole*, ex-

mine with care *one* injured part? It is necessary to fix a point: and as one particular description may suffice for a general account, I shall confine my observations to my own neighbourhood, and mark the busy scene that passed before my sight.

Such things as were of a perishable nature, it was first necessary to remove: but where were they to be deposited, when there was not even a single shed that was weather-proof? Those articles that could suffer from the rain, were (when the sun at short intervals would allow it to be done) immediately put out to dry: they were no sooner dried, than they were wet again; and this tedious and discouraging operation was continued for two or three days: the first, indeed, was a day of confusion; and when there was so much to repair, and so much to save, it was difficult to settle a plan, and to know where with propriety at first to begin.

For

For some time, indeed, the ruin on the sea side seemed to engross the general attention. A town entirely swept away with all its buildings, and a great proportion of its inhabitants, was a dreadful, as it was an unexpected sight: and the country, either from that curiosity so natural to men; from an expectation of interest, which principle too often supercedes every other consideration; or from the incitements of the more tender passions, was, for some days at least, almost entirely abandoned; and the place where Savanna-la-Mar once stood, became a motley scene of whites, of negroes, and mulattoes. Their ends were different, as were their labours and exertions. Some went to pillage, and some to save; and some were tempted, by the safety of the occasion, to do wrong, who before thought, perhaps, that they could not do otherwise than right. Under the pretence of only claiming their own, there were many who seized upon, and who retained every article they found; and the poor negroes (those out-

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casts,

casts, upon some occasions, of humanity) were dispossessed of what they held in their own rights, or in those of their masters; while those of a contrary colour, in the tyrannic insolence of presumptuous authority, not only made them forego the possession of their property, but threatened them if they resisted; and, in some instances, were guilty of abuses which were not more inhuman than they were unjust.

In the space of a few days, the independent were reduced to penury, and the needy became affluent. He who the day before had not a house to put his head in, laid the foundation, in that scene of indiscriminate calamity, of a dwelling without expence, and of goods without the necessity of credit. It seemed as if the fortune of individuals was jumbled together, and that *he* had the best right of possession who could boast the most successful arm in the day of plunder.

This part of the parish was for many days, a scene of confusion, of riot, and inebriety;

inebriety; and it was not till necessity had reached the thoughtless, reflection the unfortunate, and despondency the master, the father, and the son, that people began to brood over their disappointments and losses, to endeavour to repair the first, and to find a support and consolation under the pressures of the last.

The public and the private distresses of the lately ruined inhabitants; of the worthy who suffered, and of the resigned who had fortitude to bear; in a country of more consequence, or in a place of more notoriety, would not have disgraced the pen of the historian, nor the numbers of the poet: and this calamity might have remained as a memorial of what has passed, and served as a warning of what, in the contingency of human events, may in a future period as unhappily occur. The ruins, indeed, of the town of Port Royal, though buried amidst the waves, have continued for years a record of destruction; and still teach the infidel to believe, that the power

which bade the hands of man to build, can, if he see occasion, with a blast destroy.

There is something tremendously sublime in the bare idea of sailing over the wrecks of swallowed cities, of reflecting that the covered sands have been the graves of thousands; that one convulsion of nature can make vallies sink, and mountains rise; can make promontories dispart, and continents disjoin: and how enviable must be the execution, as the enthusiasm, of him who, having seen these phænomena, can describe their effects, and make the dreadful resemblance live not only on the canvass, but in the mind! This terrific scenery of Jamaica, after the storm above mentioned, may hereafter remain undescribed, and may die away with the very *hour* that *gave* its terrors; while succeeding ages may pass it by, and hardly heave a sigh at the obvious and sad reflection!

I shall

I shall now leave (but still with pity of their distresses and afflictions) the worthy sufferer to protect his family, console himself, and repair his loss; and accompany those negroes who were led from the different estates, from either mercenary or compassionate views, to those spots upon which their labour, as well for their own profit as that of the master, was required; and where they were expected, by patient industry and cheerful toil, to endeavour to repair what had been lately injured; to plant where planting was necessary; and to become bees in the general hive, nor suffer a drone to despoil that honey which he had not sufficient worth and industry to make.

So soon as the real destruction of the hurricane could be with certainty ascertained, and the eye had taken in all the variety of ruin,—the negroes were divided according to their different avocations, and plans were concerted for their immediate comfort and future labour. The tradesmen  
were

were first employed (after sufficient time had been allowed them to bring home their provisions, and to restore their grounds) in repairing the demolished habitations of the white people: the field gangs were likewise occupied in the construction of their houses, or in carrying home the product of their grounds; and the progression from misery to comfort was conspicuous and pleasing, as the women and children, loaded with baskets of plantains, yams, and cocoas (which latter I suspect to be the Taro of the Sandwich Islands)—the wains proceeding with a solemn motion, the mules with a hasty step—the drivers brandishing their whips, and urging on their speed—and the cattle-men either yoking or unyoking their different spells of cattle, gave additional interest to the moving scene, and\* pleasingly anticipated the success of judicious method, and the certain fruits of perseverance.

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The comforts of the negroes having been wisely and humanely attended to, and their exertions rather encouraged than pushed, they entered with cheerfulness, and I may say with sentiment, upon the service of their masters; and I should do them an injustice did I not observe, that this was rather considered by them as a duty, than a toil; they prosecuted this variety of new and painful occupation, not only without murmur, but with a zeal apportioned to the melancholy, and exerted according to the contingent, necessities of the occasion.

The tradesmen were professionally employed in the reparation and construction of the buildings; and the number of negroes that was necessarily drawn off to attend them, occasioned a very great, and sometimes a very serious, delay in the operations of the field: and after a public misfortune, I do not see how it could have been in any degree obviated, as the jobbing-gangs were engaged with avidity,  
and

and were not sufficiently numerous, or independently supplied with provisions, to undertake that work which, in seasons of plenty, they could have executed without inconvenience and danger.

The field negro-men were first set in to restore the fences; the women, to plant provisions upon the estates (their grounds in the mountains having been previously attended to), and to put in order the newly-planted canes (the old ones having received too much damage to require any further attention); or employed with the children in chopping pastures, attending the tradesmen, and in doing necessary jobs about the overseer's house; such as in repairing his stock-house, and fencing-in his poultry-yard; or carrying materials for the hands employed in the restoration of the trash-houses; and which, after the hot-house, should, in my poor opinion, be the first object of a manager's attention, but which material objects are too often, from a scarcity of tradesmen upon a plantation,

or

or from the inability of the planter to hire workmen, too frequently, and too long neglected.

A sugar plantation is like a little town : it requires the produce, as well as the industry of every climate ; and I have often been surprised, in revolving in my mind the necessary articles that the cane requires and consumes, how intimately connected is every thing that grows, and every thing that labours, with this very singular, and at one time luxurious, but now very necessary, as it is deemed to be a highly useful and wholesome, plant.

Having already described the process of the cane before crop, I shall only here suppose, after the hurricane above recited, that part of the land upon an estate is already planted ; that the young canes require a cleaning ; that some pieces are already holed ; that some are ploughed ; that some are ploughing ; and that others are manured, and are awaiting the commencement

mencement of this necessary operation. Having already enumerated these particulars, I shall proceed to the operations succeeding this stage of a planter's business, and shall dwell upon those that are immediately prior to the commencement of the harvest.

A planter is very seldom moderate in the calculation of his crop; and is consequently too often, at the latter period of it, unexpectedly deceived: nor will he give himself time to consider to what the failure of his hopes is to be attributed, or how his disappointments are to be in a future year avoided.

The cane in itself is so treacherous a plant, so liable to accidents, and attended with injury, that very little dependence can be placed upon its returns. It will sometimes put on a most flattering appearance in the field, will promise much at the mill, and yet in the coppers will unprofitably deceive; and at other times,  
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when little is expected, its produce will be great ; and it will sometimes yield best in dry, and sometimes in rainy weather.

In some years it will thrive best when late, in others, when early, planted ; will turn out better at one cutting with, and at another without, manure.

If some particular parts of a piece shall have been too negligently manured, and others too much invigorated, the disappointment in both cases will be felt.

If too much trash be suffered to lie upon it, it will be apt to fall ; and if too little, it will soon become dry ; the consequence of which will be seen in the manufacture : for although the *quality* of the sugar may be good, the *quantity* will be but trifling.

I have seldom known a field of canes that has been highly trashed, and entirely standing, that has yielded in any proportion to those upon which some straw has been left at the top of the plants, and those not lodged, but inclining to the ground.

When they are in this situation, it is a warrantable proof that they are long and succulent, and that the land about the roots is not so stiff as to prevent the roots from shooting forth in quest of further vegetation : whereas, the more the sun and air are suffered to enter into, and to spread over, the field, the sooner will the ground become dry and hard ; and as the canes cannot consequently bend, they will be apt to break, and in a little time be scarcely better than stubble.

Where a piece of sugar-canes is only meant to stand a first ratoon, or two cuttings, I would strongly recommend it to be rather highly worked than richly manured, and to be planted as thick as possible ; and I have always found those turn out the best, that have been deposited across, and not longitudinally in, the holes. When this method is practised, the land must receive more labour : a bed must be opened at the bottom of the cane-hole, to receive the plant : and the ground that is excavated to cover it, of course  
leaves

leaves sufficient room for the deposit of another; and so on until the whole piece shall be accomplished. By this practice the canes are planted deeper, and more are put into the ground; and if it be properly invigorated, I do not see why more space than is absolutely necessary for the induction of the sun and air, should be left unoccupied; for a crop of sugar will generally depend more upon the multiplicity of canes in a given portion of land, than upon their length and thickness: and the greater the quantity of sugar in proportion to an acre, the greater of course will be the quantity of rum; and that still-house must be ill attended, and badly conducted, that does not ship at least sixty large puncheons of what is good from every hundred hogheads of sugar.

There are many people who pique themselves upon making large proportions of spirit; but I greatly fear that the crop of sugar is very much injured by this practice; for I must again repeat, and I will refer my assertion to any planter of expe-

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rience in the Island, that the greater the produce of an acre of land turns out to be in sugar, the more rich will the skimmings and the molasses be, and the more considerable of course the quantity of rum.

About the time I went to Jamaica, it was the fashion (and it is astonishing to me that the mania, for I cannot call it by any other name, continued to prevail so long) to plant the land but thinly over, and to trash the canes extremely high. The consequence was, they looked well to the eye; but as they were not sufficiently numerous, and were soon apt to become dry, they yielded in crop but little produce. Few men have suffered more by this mistaken management, and by adopting plans that were not matured by experience, than myself; and I was too late convinced, that the old method of planting two or three canes in a three-foot, or a three-foot and a half, was attended with more certain produce than one plant in a  
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three-foot, or two in a four-foot, bed: but I am not decided whether it be best to lay them under the banks, or in the middle of the hole; for this, as well as the thinness or thickness of planting, will, and must, in some measure depend upon the nature of the land; of the different qualities of which I mean to treat at some length, in the course of these remarks.

It has often struck me, that sufficient care is not taken in the selection of those canes which are intended for a partial, or for the expectation of a succession of crops. In sowing land, it is surely of consequence to change the seed, and to have the best that can possibly be procured; and I do not see why this caution should not be used in regard to the sugar-cane. To remove a plant, in a flourishing state, from rich to poor land, may certainly cause it to degenerate *there*; but it will naturally be better than that which has been continually cultivated in the same hungry soil: and I cannot help reprobating that invariable

riable practice of cultivation that reigns throughout every part of the Island, of adopting the same manure, and almost the same cultivation, for every species of earth, and which practice solely consists in moving folds, or dropping dung; whereas, if rich mould from the side of rivers were carried to, and deposited upon, the barren hills, or if a compost were made and carted to the different pieces, the land would be kept in better heart, and might be made, by judicious management, and proportionable perseverance, to yield (the accidents of the climate excepted) as certain returns as any of that description in England.

The cane-holes in Jamaica are left, in general, too long open; as by this delay the salts, so necessary to vegetation, are exhaled by the constant ardours of the sun; whereas, if they were planted as soon as holed, those salts would be retained, and the young canes would have all the freshness and moisture of the soil. It is very difficult, nay it would oftentimes be imprudent,

prudent, to make an overseer forego entirely that system of cultivation to which he has been used, as steady management and sober industry may ultimately give more certain profit than change and experiment; as innovations are attended with certain expence, if not often followed with certain loss.

Some alterations however in the general and particular system of cultivation may certainly be attended with better effect. There appears to be too much bustle in the planting season: the land is too often, under the idea of pushing in a large plant, but too slightly manured, and too carelessly ploughed: it is afterwards not properly holed; and at the last, is either too thinly, or, in other respects, too injudiciously planted. I would recommend it as a custom that ought not, at any time of the year, or in any soil, to be omitted, to have the bottoms of the bed which is to receive the cane, very deeply and carefully hoe-ploughed; and the fewer the joints of

canes (and here a selection should be made) that are deposited in the holes, the less risque will there be of their not taking root, and of thereby rendering needless any future supply.

It is better for the planter, the negroes, and the stock, that a small portion of land be well manured, well cultivated, and early accomplished, than that any part should be left unfinished until the time that the seasons decline; and it is better to lose something at the beginning of the crop, than to trail on the operations of sugar-making until the rains set in; for at that period, whatever is made, is not only bad, but expensive, and is extremely prejudicial to the health of the negroes, destructive to the strength and durability at least, if not to the lives of the cattle; and hurtful to the produce that is to be carried down, at that season of the year, with delay and trouble, and over roads that have been rendered almost impassable by the frequency of heavy and soaking showers,

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to the distant wharfs, or barguadiers. Upon hilly estates, in particular, I would therefore urge the necessity of beginning crop, at the very farthest, on some one day in the first week of January; as the canes upon elevated situations will be sooner ripe than they are ever found to be upon the plains; and as, if this rule be invariably pursued, they will be cut before they become too dry; may be taken off before the water fails the mills (a circumstance which too often happens upon some estates, towards the end of the crop), and the best part of the produce may be carried down and shipped before the seasons shall set in; and lastly, which in my opinion is an object of the utmost consequence, the young canes and the ratoons may have a thorough cleaning before the descent of the rains shall cause the weeds to grow, and interrupt the labour which, at that time of the year, may be so easily and so profitably given.

Of the cane, it is very difficult to judge from its size and appearance: it is, through-

out its various stages, a very uncertain and a very treacherous plant: and there are some singularities attending it, which I shall beg leave, in this place, to mention.

Almost every production of the earth has a stated period of perfection, which having attained, if not then reaped, it will gradually decay; nor will moisture revive, nor suns invigorate, its drooping leaves and sapless stem; but with the sugar-cane this is by no means the case. We will suppose it to be ripe; that the leaves begin, in consequence, to change their colour, that the rind begins to dry, that the pith retains but little juice, and that it affords but little produce; that it has, in short, the appearance of stubble, and that it would burn almost like tinder. From such an appearance of vegetative decay I hardly know a plant in Europe that would recover, and yield perhaps as much or more produce after its resuscitation, than it would have done if taken in its prime. Should  
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a field of canes be in the situation above described, and there should happen to fall a succession of showers, they will begin almost immediately to assume a fresher hue, and by degrees appear to have recovered their former verdure; and should the weather become afterwards dry and favourable, they will be again replenished with juice; that juice will daily become more rich, and it will be a second time in a state of perfection.

It often happens, on the contrary, that if a piece shall be yielding well, and unexpected rains shall fall, the juice will become so thin and watery, and that in the course of a very few days, that the canes which before, we will suppose, in the first ratoon, were making nearly an hoghead an acre of good sugar, will not then give one fourth part of that produce, and even that shall be exceedingly bad; but if they be suffered to stand some little time longer, and the dry weather shall again set in, they will return to, if not exceed, their former yieldings ;

yieldings: and this singularity is not observable in one soil and season alone, but in every part of the Island, and, I believe, in every island of the West-Indies.

The cane blossoms more upon hilly, than it does upon flat land: indeed you may observe a sensible alteration as you descend from lofty situations until you come gradually down into the plains. Whether or no those canes that arrow yield best, or those that scarcely arrow at all, is a point, among planters, that I believe remains, and ever will remain, undecided. Since the introduction of the plough, and its general use, I think they blossom more upon the low lands than they used to do; and yet from this blossom I never knew a plant arise, for the land in Jamaica is universally cultivated by transplantation.

The juice of the cane is certainly more rich upon the mountains, than it is upon flat estates; but then it is not so long retained,

rained, nor can the land be so thickly planted; the consequence of which is, that a given proportion of land of the last description will yield a more certain weight of sugar, and a more considerable quantity of gallons of rum.

In heavy seasons, the hilly lands are generally found to have the advantage; in moderate seasons, the plains do best: some people therefore prefer those properties upon which there may be annually selected an adequate proportion of both. I am a decided advocate for flat land, and all flat, in preference to the smallest elevation; and for the following reasons,

As the magnitude of a crop must absolutely depend upon the quantity of canes, and as that quantity of planted land must depend upon the numbers of stock—upon that land more can be raised and kept, than can be ever done upon the hills. The cane-pieces upon mountain estates are generally at a considerable distance from the  
pastures

pastures upon which the cattle are fed; they must consequently be driven a long way, which is very prejudicial, particularly in the rainy seasons, to the breeding cows, and destructive to the calves.

The situation of the pens upon the hills is bleak and slippery; and the negroes who watch them, and in the rainy seasons the cattle that are folded in them, are much to be pitied. In these pens, there is not, in general, a sufficient quantity of trash deposited for either the purposes of warmth and cleanliness for the stock, or for the advantages of manure; and another inconvenience attending them is, that the spots upon which they are placed are so highly enriched, that they cannot be planted with the rest of the piece; and let them be put in ever so late, the canes that grow upon them will be apt to lodge, and will consequently yield but little sugar, although they will require much time, on this account, to be cut down. If these pens were placed upon some parts of the intervals  
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of the different pieces, and their contents were to be transported from thence, it would, in my opinion, have a better effect; the piece that is meant to be invigorated, would have a more equal manure; the canes all over the field would be ripe at the same time, would be cut together, and the land would have a more regular and husbandmanlike appearance.

I am not an advocate for moving pens upon the hilly land: I think manure dropped into the holes at the time of planting will produce a more certain crop: but in manure, as in every thing else, there is good, as there is likewise bad. I do not think that the soil in Jamaica is, in general, sufficiently fermented: it is generally deposited (if I may venture to use the expression) in the holes before it is sufficiently ripe; and as it is the author of, why may it not have the same properties (relatively speaking) that seed has, and from which a crop cannot possibly arise unless it shall have attained its utmost perfection.

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I would recommend composts in preference to dung; but then the labour and expence, it may be urged, and with great reason, will strongly militate against this speculative reformation; but to which I shall answer, that the land once put in heart by a foreign stratum, will continue for years without the farther auxiliaries of fecundation; for the more the land is enriched for a number of years, the more will it wear away in strength and staple, and must, and will be, with certainty impoverished at last; and this fact there are but few landholders in Jamaica who cannot witness.

Some overseers have a trick of furbishing the outer rows of a piece, and of strewing stoke-hole ashes around the roots of the canes. In a hot climate, it is natural to suppose that hot manure, if it deserve the name, will be prejudicial. I have always observed, that the canes that have been disfigured with their own ashes, have had a dry and a dwarfish appearance; and that those

those which have been the most removed from heat, have been in general the most tall and healthy, and have eventually given the largest proportion of juice: for it is the quantity, and not the quality, as I before observed, that fills a hoghead.

In going through a field of canes there are many parts that are carelessly cleaned, and negligently trashed; and as the drivers cannot exactly watch the operations of the negroes, nor the white men in such situations attend the drivers; and as the work is, in general, too much pushed; it cannot be wondered at, if sufficient justice be not done in this particular stage of the planting business.

It is necessary that the trenches be kept clean and open, where the land is low, and requires a drain; but then it is a general observation, that those rows of canes which are adjoining the trenches, have not the promising appearance which those have that are not so near; and for this reason, I

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think, the fewer there are upon a pièce, the better, for every one is a diminution of soil; and some fields are so much cut up by these unnecessary drains, that a great proportion of the land is entirely lost. Upon the hills very few are required, and upon the plains a great number might be dispensed with.

I would rather have my land well wrought, and planted early, than have it well manured, if I were only to adopt one mode of cultivation; and to adopt both, with profit, I conceive to be almost impossible. That land which does not stand in need of invigoration, is in general supposed to be the most invaluable: I am sure that it is not, by any means, the most profitable; for almost all land must be impoverished to be made productive: and however proud those planters may be of their canes which stand for years without a replantation, yet I cannot help concluding, that Nature is impartial in her gifts, and that where she gives the  
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most luxuriant land, she affords the most scanty seasons; and where the most barren soil, the more constant refreshment of moisture: nor am I sure but what the bottom may be rich, although the stratum be poor; and that where the surface is rich, the bottom may be little better than a *caput mortuum*; and for this reason, I think, and I again repeat, that the cane-hole should not be long exposed, but should be planted as soon as made.

It is a common practice, where corn will grow, to plant it with the canes; and there are various opinions upon this subject. The overseer, who is to reap the benefit of this production, will say that it does not do any injury to the canes: the planter, perhaps, whose horses, hogs, and poultry, are not to receive any benefit from this plantation, may insist that it cannot possibly do them any good. Among plant-canes, I do not conceive it of consequence, if the cleaning of them be not postponed in compliment to the corn: and if they

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have every justice done them, indeed I do not know but the canes have sometimes an extraordinary cleaning upon this account, but when it is planted among ratoons, I conceive it to be universally prejudicial, and therefore I would not advise it to be ever adopted.

The most considerable objection to the planting of corn among the canes, I conceive to be the extraction of that moisture and manure from the banks in which the grains are set, and which, in one of their different cleanings, would have been brought down for their future support and vegetation: and if the sticks or stubble be suffered to remain any length of time upon the land, which is too often the case, they will, in some measure, prejudice the growing canes, will interrupt the verdure of the piece, and have the appearance of inactivity, if not neglect; a reproach which few overseers, I should hope, would wish to merit.

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I think it would be better, on many accounts, to have a portion of land of a quality particularly favourable for the production of corn, entirely set aside and well manured, well ploughed, and well attended, for this particular purpose; as a want of grain is, to the overseer, and to his attendants, the want of some of those domestic comforts of which no man but a churl would wish to see him deprived. Where a person of this description is found good, it is my opinion, that he ought to experience every indulgence; for liberality, when extended to the industrious and to the honest, will meet with profit; and in the conduct of a West-Indian estate, where the manager has the care of the lives of hundreds of his fellow-creatures, and of a capital to a considerable amount, I do not think a few extraordinary comforts in one instance, and a few pounds to purchase them in others, can ever be attended with much loss to even a miser's affairs; for generosity will often excite industry, and esta-

blish service; but profusion must gradually bring on distress, and end in ruin.

As the overseers will be obliged, by a new law, to put in every year so many acres of provisions for the use of the negroes, and will likewise generally cultivate some new land in the mountains for themselves, and in which corn, as is always the case, will be regularly planted,—I should conceive, that a piece of land of twenty acres, as an additional resource, and set aside for the production of grain, would be fully sufficient to answer all the different purposes of a plantation. Where the white people have not corn, they cannot have either hogs or poultry; and upon sheep and goats alone, I think that they cannot place a total dependence; nor do I think it policy to encourage, in any degree, their encrease.

There are many estates in Jamaica that cannot do without salt provisions; and there are many upon which, without this importation,

importation, the white people can very comfortably subsist. But as seasons are precarious, and of course whatever the land produces is uncertain, if the crops of corn should entirely fail, and there be upon the plantation no substitute for such a loss, a provision, as it will be necessary, must be made in the country; and as this supply will be accidental, it must be dear; which remark now consequently brings me to the following question:—If an estate cannot at all times depend upon itself, nor be always supplied from the markets of the Island, where must they look for a redress of those evils, which can neither brook delay, nor be relieved by expence? The answer plainly follows.—Let a reasonable supply be annually exported *good* from Europe. But suppose it should be found to be, as is too frequently the case, not only bad, but unfit for use, what remedy has the planter under such deception, or to use a milder word, under such apparent neglect? A survey should be made, and the accidents

of the voyage allowed; but a *good* price should not be allowed for *bad* provisions: and in the war, it is astonishing what a quantity was imported of this description.

If flat estates have an advantage in the ease and celerity of cultivation, in the numbers and increase of their cattle, in the quantity of land that is devoted to pasturage, in the more considerable proportion of produce, in the facility with which the canes are carried to the mill and the sugar and rum are carted from the curing-house and the still-house to the barguadier, and in the little necessity they have for the labour of the mules; of which, upon some estates of this description, there are not any at all; if flat estates are possessed of these advantages, the mountain-properties may claim others that will serve with many as a counterpoise to those benefits, and which I shall in this place beg leave to enumerate.

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If the canes upon low-land situations make most sugar, (which if they do not in plants, they generally will in ratoons) upon hills they will certainly make better produce, and from a smaller proportion of materials: it will be sooner dry and fit for market, will stand better in the cask, and turn out better weight upon its arrival in England.

Upon hilly estates there are in general, I think, more water-mills than there are upon the plains; but then they likewise require a more considerable proportion of mules, than which no stock in Jamaica is more expensive and unprofitable; and it is on this account that there are not sufficient numbers kept to make their labour easy, or to give them time to recover from those hurts and bruises which must be the consequence of daily exertions, of cruel treatment, and severe fatigue. They are not in general sufficiently foddered at noon or night, nor are they sheltered (as they ought to be when relieved from toil) from the

heats of noon, the rains that descend in the evening, or the dews that fall at night. The mule is supposed to be, as it really is, a very hardy and a patient animal; and its labour is commonly proportioned to its endurance; whereas (it being a valuable part of a planter's possession) it should be treated with justice at least, if not with tenderness; and its work should be not only apportioned to its strength, but to its age, its situation, and appearance. When the negroes shall have felt the salutary effects of the commiseration and indulgence of the people of Jamaica, I should hope that their humanity would not be insulted by extending their protection to those patient but tacit sufferers, who feel much, but without the descriptive language of complaint: and of all dumb creatures, or rather of all those creatures that are not possessed of the organs of speech, I cannot help insisting that the mules in the West-Indies are the most entitled to compassion and relief.

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The mountain-estates have better provision-grounds, as they have better seasons, than the low-land plantations; they have more timber, and near at hand, for the purposes of building; and have, in general, an inexhaustible resource of copper-wood and brush; and have of consequence more convenience for the making and burning of lime, which is often an expensive, as it is an almost annual, job; not only upon the up-land properties, but upon those whose situations are in the plains,

They do not make in general so much rum as the latter, nor do they grow any considerable quantity of corn; but then they will make better spirit, will produce more and better plantains, cocos, and yams, and, in short, every species of provisions: and these last productions I should infinitely prefer to the sometimes profitable, but oftentimes uncertain, cultivation of canes. The last cannot support the negro's life, nor will its barter always procure them food; whereas the former  
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will make them independent, and reconcile them at all times, and under all emergencies, to their situations, their labour, and their homes.

It has been often observed, that hilly estates are more laborious and difficult to work than those that are flat. To manure, they certainly are; and are more distressing on account of carriage; but I do not think that their manual cultivation is so fatiguing to the negroes: the land, in general, is not so stiff, nor does the soil attach itself with such constant adhesion to the hoes; nor do negroes stoop by any means so low, in either digging or cutting canes. The land is not so much choaked with weeds: the rain running off (instead of settling as it does in the plains), restrains, in a great measure, their spontaneous and rapid vegetation.

I think it of great consequence in Jamaica, to have dry and ample intervals; and I am sure that it would be ultimately a saving of labour and expence, and be attended

attended with signal success in the future preservation of the stock. 'Those roads, in particular, that lead to the greatest number of pieces, and that serve as a general communication to the foot of the mountains, to the pastures, to the works, and market, should, in my opinion, be carefully and substantially paved; the trenches on each side be made of clinkers; and stone or brick bridges should be thrown over the hollows, and all those parts that are liable to become swamps.

It is scandalous to think how much in general these intervals are neglected, and how much they are cut up in the time of planting by the wains that constantly traverse them, and in every possible direction, to the delay of the carriage, and the distress and injury of the cattle; whereas, if they were paved, there would be only one road upon which they would be allowed to pass; that road would be always firm, and the steers would work upon it without injury and without fatigue. The leading intervals

intervals should be made wide; and, were it not for the expence of what is called a dead, and hence an unprofitable stock, I would say that no carts whatever should be suffered to work upon the fields, but that they should deposit their burdens in the nearest intervals; and the weakly negroes or the mules (of which of course there must be an additional number, and of consequence an additional expence) should carry the canes to the different spots upon which they might be wanted; for the stoles of the canes that are to contribute to the produce of the plantation, in the first, or in the other ratoons, will suffer very considerably from the track of the wheels; and if they traverse in one constant direction, as is, I think, too often and injudiciously suffered to be done, they will make a road across the centre of the piece, which will become so much worn as to injure, if not entirely destroy, the roots of the canes that remain upon them.

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Some planters, I know, particularly those who have not tradesmen of their own, will shudder at the bare anticipation of such a plan: but I must beg leave to remind them, that the first expence will be, in some measure, the last; for if the work be well done at the commencement, the repairs that it will eventually require will be but trifling; and the salvation of stock in a few, perhaps in one or two, rainy crops, may be considerably more than an indemnification for the expenditure, as it must be attended with consequences of such magnitude to the future interest of a plantation. As negroes are the *principal*, and the *principle*, of a planter's wealth; his cattle, being a subordinate capital, are likewise instruments of riches; and without which, the skill and labour of the former will be found to be of no avail.

In delivering my opinion upon the different kinds of management of a sugar plantation, I wish to be understood as speaking from my own personal experience.

rience, without either adopting or rejecting that of others: I wish likewise to be understood as speaking from my errors, and not success; for were I again to have the local direction of a Jamaica property, I should certainly, in many instances, run counter to my former practice; but should, I believe, (could I boast of firmness and perseverance) unremittingly follow that conduct which, with too much presumption perhaps, I have ventured to prescribe. I am convinced that more good example may be obtained from errors acknowledged than from an obstinate prosecution of a favourite plan, and only a favourite perhaps as it is our own. I flatter myself that I have given an impartial, and, I trust, as far as my experience reaches, a just account of the progress and appearance of the sugar-cane throughout the year: but it will still be necessary to observe that the canes that have been planted in the fall, will not be fit to cut in less than sixteen or seventeen months after their plantation; but the spring plants and the ratoons may be taken off

off in twelve: but as very little or no labour is employed about them between October and the time of crop, I shall leave them at this period, and take notice of such particulars as necessarily precede the expected harvest.

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I suppose the planter to be setting out to take a view of his estate in the month of November; and shall accompany him through the various occupations of the negroes from that time until the commencement of the crop; and shall suppose that he looks with a painter's eye at the sky above, the plains below, and upon the various scenes that shall at different times, and in different situations, surround him.

As the north winds set in about this season of the year, and as the climate, particularly in the morning, is cool and pleasant, the different situations of the country may be then observed with pleasure and convenience; and as nature puts on an aspect

aspect very dissimilar from that the wore in the time of the rainy seasons, the various images that present themselves at every turn, afford delight from novelty; and the planter looks forward with a pleasing impatience to that period in which his anxiety and suspense are to be rewarded by that golden harvest, which many are apt to anticipate with an elation too sanguine, and which generally ends in disappointment, if not in vexation, trouble, and distress.

There is a something extremely pleasing and reviving to the feelings at the commencement of the Norths, when the ardours of the sun are exchanged for the ventilations of the breeze; and when the oppressive glow of the heat is allayed by flitting clouds and passing showers, which arise with the dawn, accompany the day, and which are not dispersed by the shadows of night. The chilly feel of the matin air, when the sun-beams labour to overcome the mist, when its fervours dart into the

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the showers, and illuminate the drops that fall, overcome, by an almost immediate perception, the languor of the complaining body, and give an elasticity to the dejected mind. It seems to renovate the exhausted spirits, to animate the circulation, and to brace up the system that had been too lately lax from the oppression and continued heat of the climate.

When the rays of the morning seem to break upon the mountains, and to struggle with the showers that 'hang' their vapours around, the eye is presented with an enchanting variety of new and brilliant images, which vary as the light expands; while successive rainbows melt, or form, as the prismatic showers disperse or rise. The circumjacent hills are sometimes buried in the pearly mist; at others they obtrude their leafy shadows; are sometimes covered with a saffron haze, and at others protrude their majestic forms, and are suffused with one universal glow of light. The rolling clouds at one time throw a

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veil

veil of shadow upon the scenes below ; are seen at another to break before the sun, to trail upon the summits of the hills, or to flit before the wind, and in momentary scuds to wander over, and deposit their moisture on, the plains. The light alternately gilds, and the gloom enshrouds, the views around ; and the perfumes that travel with the breeze convey the fragrance of the forest to the sterility of the shore.

The variety of reflection that is observed at this season of the year among the mountains, the alternations of stifling heat and trembling cold, of beaming skies and hanging clouds, of glowing haze and flitting showers,—and these, perhaps, in constant succession from morning to night, are particularities of that climate, and are images of nature, which I have not ever seen represented in other countries: and it is certainly to be lamented, that a season so agreeable to the feelings, so refreshing to the traveller, and in which so much exercise may be taken without heat or inconvenience, should be prejudicial to the health

health of the white people, and inimical to the constitutions of the negroes, who are affected by the slightest cold, who shiver at every breeze, and who, in the most fervid day and in the hottest night, cannot only bear a fire, but seem to be uncomfortable in their houses without it.

The north wind has many singular and pleasing effects upon fields of canes, particularly when they are in blossom: the flying showers now scud over their bending surfaces, and make them sigh to every aspiration of the breeze: they now bend on one side with all their weight of silver plumes, and now, as they return to their stations, exhibit a lilac dye: and if this beautiful production shall be observed on the side of a pendant hill, a large mass of verdure will seem to overshadow you as you ride along, and which, when the wind returns, will exchange its depth of green for a bright and golden yellow; and these alterations of colour, or brightened by the sun, or softened by the shower, have effects

which the produce above described can alone experience; and compared to which, a field of waving corn in England, although a pleasing, is by no means so romantic or so interesting an object.

On the side of the lofty mountains, on distant declivities, on gloomy vallies, and sequestered dells, the efforts of this wind have their different varieties; and their light and shadow must depend upon the different productions that grow around.

Upon the mountains the reflections are more strong, as they are likewise more transitory, than they are upon the plains: the successive rays that gild the showers, and dart across the foliage of the trees, are seen with delight upon the hills; but gently fade away in the vallies, and are hardly noticed in the glades: but then they seem to acquire fresh vigour, and to spread with renovated charms, and to tinge with a diversity of hues the bosom of the ocean.

As

As I have before noticed the tinted beauties of the rocks of Bluefield, I shall now suppose myself to be seated upon the most elevated part of this romantic hill, and looking down upon all the beauties of the scene below.

The hill upon this road, a little beyond the watering-place (which is supplied with one of the most brilliant and limpid streams of which imagination can possibly form a just idea, and which in point of keeping is hardly inferior to the boasted quality of that of the Thames), is very particularly and strikingly romantic; and the precipices towards the sea are painfully tremendous, as in some places the road is extremely narrow; and there are but few intervening shrubs to give the eye a confidence, and to break the giddy distance of the depth below,

As you look back upon the country through which you had lately passed; the solemn woods and the painted rocks, over

which is seen to wander an infinite variety of creeping shrubs; the winding road, the sinking hills, the level plains, the dotted town, and spiral masts; the swelling bay and sandy shores, and the distant mountains softened in the horizon—all together form an amphitheatre of beauty and extent that is seldom examined, and little known; and which puts me much in mind, in some particular and different parts, of one of those large and magnificent pictures of Claude Lorrain, in the valuable and nicely discriminated collection of Mr. Agar; a collection which is full of value, and which, to make that value more complete, is always open to the observation of curiosity, and to the imitation of genius.

This cabinet may be considered as an academy of the art, as in it are some of the best works of the best masters, and in the best possible preservation; and I much doubt, for the number, if more choice and exquisite landscapes are to be found in *any* collection:

collection: and it must be the public wish that the worthy possessor may long live to make, with equal liberality and judgment, fresh selections, and that they may remain for ages in his family, that his name may be handed down, with kindness and with gratitude, to posterity.

The situation above described, presents, if all circumstances of climate be considered, one of the most beautiful and romantic views of the sea (of a bird's-eye prospect) I have ever had an opportunity to notice. The most extensive perhaps of this description may be observed from some particular points of the town of Lowestoft; but then the ocean is unbounded; you observe no rounding bay, no level shore, no distant plains, nor lofty mountains: whereas, in the prospect I now describe, the stretch of the sea is on one side so extensive that the sight is lost in its extremity of distance, whilst on the other it is confined by every object that is picturesque

by land; and upon that land are alternately seen gloomy shadows, bursting lights, and playful reflections.

The bay, in the morning, presents a mirror of the most smooth and polished glass, which, mantled over by a warm and yellow haze, conveys the idea of silence, and the languor of approaching heat; and seems to sigh for the breeze to ruffle its quiescent state, to mitigate the rising ardours of the sun, and to spread salubrity and freshness upon the scenes around.

It is beautiful to see the luminous reflections of the morning, when the first zephyr begins to awake, when you observe *one* distant ripple almost insensibly agitate the horizon; *that* awakening, as it were, another, and exciting a third; and in this progressive undulation, until the whole sea appears to be in motion, and the sunbeams seem to play delighted upon the rising waves.

Its

Its bosom now disturbed puts on a different form, and glows with different hues. The shadows are now broken and uncertain, the reflections are disturbed, and the waters change from a pellucid brightness to a dingy green.

As yet the breeze is fickle, and, partial upon some particular parts of the ocean, forms a rippling circle all around: in some parts it agitates the waves, which break in hollow billows upon the beach, or with a gentle murmur wash the sands: in other parts it restrains its aspirations, and the sun seems to glow with all his fervor; the fishermen pant beneath its rays; the canoe is lost in the vapoury heat, and seems to be uplifted from the ocean, while its form is faithfully reflected in the glowing mirror. In other parts it just begins to fill and to impel the sails, which now appear to be hid in a temporary gloom, and which now shoot forth from darkness into light.

Sometimes

Sometimes the sea appears to be a prodigious bed of sand; at others it exhibits a succession of furrows, through which the keels of the larger vessels plough their way; and at other times it assumes different colours and different forms; and every variation is attended with a different sensation, and either oppresses with heat, or refreshes with the breeze.

The shores in Jamaica are fringed with a variety of trees and shrubs of a lively verdure and a picturesque appearance; and the mangoes are particular for the singularity of their growth, and for the eccentric vegetation of their stems and roots. The sea-side grape is seen, in many spots, to turn its verdant arches; and in others, the coy portlandia, that is screened among the bushes, and is hardly obvious to the sight (and here we might draw a comparison between the sweetest songster of the forest, and the sweetest perfume of the grove), sends forth its luscious fragrance to embalm  
the

the air, but at the same time to enfeeble the senses by the oppression of its sweets.

The shrieking of the crickets, the screaming of the black-birds, the gabbling of the crows, and the croaking of the toads, are heard very early in a morning to disturb the silence of the scene; but they at length give way to the melancholy cooings of the doves that murmur to the waves which begin to feel the visitations of the wind, which gently and successively impels their rippling curves to break with distant whispers on the shore. These various images appear to give a sentiment to the surrounding scenery, and to awaken the mind to one of the most awful ideas to which it is able to expand,—to a contemplation of that interminable stretch of waters which so largely contributes to the preservation, as it likewise so greatly tends to the destruction, of man.

When the body has been a long time weakened by sickness, and the mind has  
been

been worn down by care and affliction, I know not any thing that can so much strengthen the first, or amuse the last, as a solitary ride at the dawn of day, upon the sandy borders of the ocean. At that time it is peculiarly entertaining to see the little tribes of testaceous fishes that cover the paths, or that fly to their holes for shelter from the passing tread; to observe the heavy pelican dart down like lightning upon the finny shoals; to behold the waters discoloured and put in motion by the minor inhabitants of the watery world, who dart from the beautiful but treacherous dolphin, which obliges the flying-fish to seek another element, and which watches (until their wings shall become dry, and can no longer support their timid flight) their hasty descent into that below; to remark the larger shoals in tumult and disorder excite a wave by their numbers and velocity wherever they pass, in their noisy escape from the savage baracooter, or the more voracious shark; and lastly, to dwell upon the tumbling of the porpoise,

to

watch the spoutings of the grampus, and to smile at the gambols of the unwieldy and enormous whale.

The eye has a quiet pleasure, in contrast to the above description, in observing the multiplicity of canoes that seem, at the break of day, to swell upon the offing, and which, through the transparent and glowing atmosphere, may, with all their reflections, be easily distinguished: and there is something not less grand and romantic in the very idea of having the sight arrested from farther search by the aspiring mountains, which, on one side, close the view, and bending from their elevations, with all their rocks, and all their woods, reflect the scenery of their majestic masses, and darken with their shadows the waves which sink into a calm, to receive in their smooth and polished bosoms their embrace below.

With how much more patience and delight can these different objects be observed when the north-wind brings freshness and  
healing

healing upon its wings! (for, although it be prejudicial to those in health, yet will it often revive at least, if not restore, the convalescent); when it gives variety to every scene, and makes the skies, the waters, and the land, assume new forms, that glow with various hues, or are embrowned by different shades.

It is pleasing to observe the showers that incessantly scud across the bay, and ruffle, as they pass, the bosom of the ocean; while the sun, as it breaks through the mist, enlightens the successive rainbows that spread their gaudy arches in the skies, and whose colours are reflected in the waters. The heavens are at one time all brightness; at another they become all gloom: they sometimes seem to be in conflict, and to struggle for transcendancy; and now the light, and now the showers, prevail: and these variations may be almost daily observed at that particular season of the year which I am now endeavouring to describe.

A state

A state of convalescence appears to me to be that, of all others, which is most open to, and which indulges most in, the melancholy and awful impressions: and the transitions from the sublime to the pleasing, and from the sounds of discordance to those of melody, have their alternate and sympathetic effects, and have consequently their attractions. Every rural object delights the eye, and every murmur of the grove is in unison with the soul. The convalescent man has his hopes, his wishes, and his fears; but the remembrance of sickness melts them down to patient expectation and a calm enjoyment. The relative situations of life become, at that time, more tender; the parent is more indulgent, as he is more fond; the son more dutiful, as he is rendered more affectionate; the friend more kind, as his exertions are more felt; and the servant more attentive, as his zeal is deemed more necessary. We acknowledge our wants in our weakness, and are grateful at such a time

time for trifles, when obligations, in the pride of health, would pass unnoticed.

A man in such a state is obliged to look into his heart; he is, as it were, in the middle passage between this life and eternity; and in throwing his thoughts back upon the world, while he has nothing to regret, he heartily despises its frivolities, disappointments, and deceit: but then he looks forward to hope, to peace, and immortality. Some tender connections of existence it may be his fate to leave behind him, for this is an appendage of his condition; but there may have been others of a more near concern which have gone before him, and which he is anxious to regain and to meet, with a moral certainty that they can be no more dissolved.

At such an awful period, the book of life is opened to us; and religion, as it fortifies our weakness, instructs us in the knowledge of the most useful pages; it soothes our melancholy with the voice of comfort;

comfort; it enlivens our hopes by teaching us, not only the justice, but the mercy of our Creator; it weans us from the world, and puts us in mind of that period to which, from the moment of our births, we are daily verging; to that end to which, sooner or later, we must all come; to that tremendous dissolution which will confirm the misery, or substantiate the happiness, of man.

In this place I cannot help observing how much our *private* losses were lately absorbed by a *public* affliction. The visitations of Providence are always sacred; and when it deigns to attack the bed of royalty with that infirmity to which the king is equally subject with the beggar, the mind expands at the idea of the justice and impartiality of its Maker; but the world, alas! is more apt to sacrifice to Mammon than to God.

If a man in a private situation of life be afflicted with a disorder of an alarming and

a peculiar magnitude, he may have, perhaps, the commiseration of his family, and may be insulted by the hypocritical sorrows of his expectants; but the sufferings of a king are a common concern: and if he be conscientious in the discharge of his trust, be just in his power, and virtuous in his dispensations; if he sacrifice his own authority to the public peace, his own interest to the public good, and wish to found the blessings of his reign in the perfection and the happiness of his people; if he be, in short, as ours is, a Patriot King, without prejudice, without resentment, without distrust;—his people will feel his sorrows, will watch his infirmities, and weary heaven with prayers for his prosperity and health.

The dignified deportment of the Queen, the tender affliction of the wife, and the sincere attachment of the friend, have portrayed, for the imitation of love and virtue, an example that will add honour to the sex, and immortality to this age and country.

To

To suffer with fortitude, is the characteristic of an habitually good, and a pious inclination; and to watch the infirmities of the body and the sorrows of the mind, with patient and christian resignation; to feel with tenderness every sigh, and to wipe with compassion every tear; to resign the charms of state to the willing offices of duty; to forget the world and its allurements; to forget situation, pomp, and homage; to sink at once into the most painful and melancholy occupations of private life; and to be as exemplary in sorrow, as benevolent in royalty; is a lesson that has not ever perhaps been imposed upon such an exalted condition, and was a struggle which nothing but virtue could have opposed, and which nothing else could have overcome; and which triumph, in every situation of private and of public life, has been, illustrious Charlotte! without envy and without exaggeration acknowledged thine!

The sorrows and apprehensions of this favoured kingdom are now removed; and I much doubt if any joy has ever been more sincere, if ever pity was more general, if ever exultation more diffusive, if any sovereign more beloved.

May health, may peace, and happiness surround our King, and his people's confidence and love still continue the best supporters of his throne! May no family dissensions and no domestic jars ever interrupt his paternal feelings, or embitter his private repose! May his children (the most accomplished that could ever make a parent proud, or grace an empire) be ever objects of duty, as of love! may confidence spring from affection! may the father trace the descent of his virtues in the promise of his sons; and may the sons hold up as a mirror to their fight, the transcendent qualities of their great Progenitor!

I flatter myself that I need not anticipate the forgiveness of my readers, for intruding  
upon

upon their patience the above reflections, as the joy which has been the consequence of a late and happy restoration, has pervaded, with equal sincerity, all ranks and descriptions of men. The voice of party has been sunk in gratulations of the great event; and the distinguished leaders of this formidable band have vied with each other (and to their immortal praise be it spoken), not only in sentiments, but in acts of loyalty: and may they continue as firm in the constitutional protection of the crown, as they have proved themselves incorruptible in their attachment to one another!

AFTER the digression in the former pages, which the late awful event so naturally inspired, and which a melancholy train of ideas had prepared my mind to imbibe, I shall now beg leave to resume my discontinued subject, and again revert to the Norths, and their effects among the mountains.

This wind is peculiarly distressing to those negroes who are exposed to its bleak intrusions, and who are obliged to watch the cattle-pens upon the summits of the hills at night,

When chilly cold the north-wind blows;  
and which it often does in a manner that would, even to an European constitution, be deemed intolerable.

Many poor wretches of this description are seen in the situation above mentioned, and shivering to the wind without raiment  
perhaps,

perhaps, and without food; when their occupations more than entitle them to a sufficiency of both. These miserable creatures (pitiable, indeed, in every respect, as they are generally made up of the old and infirm) are expected to watch all night, to prevent the cattle from breaking through their places of confinement, and to give the alarm should any accidents of fire happen,

It would be attended with small expence and trouble, if temporary hovels were erected at that side of the pens through which the cattle enter, that the watchmen might be in some measure under cover, and protected from the dews and the flying scuds at night; and if they had wrappers to keep their bodies warm, and a small allowance of spirit to comfort them in this tedious and necessary avocation, it would be attended with more salutary effects than if they were to continue, as they now do, unprotected and unprovided.

A man of humanity will take an interest in every feeling of the slave; will forget colour in misfortune, and reflect that the wind that does not shake *his guarded* frame, may petrify the body of those who do not possess any raiment but patience, and no spirit but indurance. Those people ought not to complain of the intrusion of cold, whose situations have placed them beyond its influence: those people should not complain of hunger, whose appetites are not only consulted, but satiated with every delicacy: those people should not complain that their wills are restricted, when they claim a liberty of action, a contempt of restraint, and, without an inclination to do good, have the power to commit a worthless action: nor shall I be scandalized, I hope, if in this reflection I do not make a discrimination of feeling, between the white man and him who is unfortunately of a different complexion.

I am now speaking of positive, and not of partial feelings; and if I dwell with  
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some pertinacity, and from some experience, upon the bodily sensation of negroes, it is because I have heard those feelings despised; it is because I have heard negroes treated as brutes, in some instances; and in others, have heard them not only considered as men, but martyrs. That they think, that they feel, that they act,—who can be so foolish or so impious as to deny?—It is not the colour of the skin that makes the alteration of sentiment, that degrades humanity, and makes the cogitative power sink and dwindle into the irrationality of brutes: it is not the difference of language and education: it is not the tyranny of custom, the chain of connexion, and the gradations of humanity, that throw them at a distance from the refinements of life and the protection of society; nor is it insensibility of soul that presses them down, as in too many cases, to the situation of beasts of burden: it is not owing to any of these data that their condition is thus humbled; it proceeds from interest alone—that most unfeeling,

feeling, as it is the most persevering of all the human vices; that detestable principle to which a man would sacrifice his friend, his brother, his father, and his son; and to the shrine of which he would rather bend, than prostrate himself before the altar of his God.

The wretch who is solely actuated by this infernal principle (and where is he who, having lived much in the commerce of the world, has not met with numbers of this description?) lives a traitor to justice, a delinquent in gratitude, and dead to every honest and benevolent feeling of the heart: he makes himself suspicious and wretched, alive, at the same time that he seeks for comfort in the oppression and misery of others; and he leaves at last behind him, a name that is only remembered as attached to meanness and rapacity, to fraud and injustice; and that is held forth as an eternal memorial of infamy and reproach.

The

The bad policy of placing the old and infirm in situations of exertion and trust, is daily obvious upon every plantation, in the trespasss of the cattle, the neglect of the canes, and more particularly as they advance to ripeness : and yet this system of management is suffered to continue ; the poor negro receives punishment after punishment, as a consequence of his weakness ; and, perhaps without a foot to stand upon, or a hand that can administer to the most common necessaries of life, is expected to persevere in his nightly rounds and visitations of the cattle-pens and canes ; and is made responsible for every intrusion, for every trespasss, and for every (the most trifling) neglect.

Should it rain heavily at night, these poor creatures are still expected to remain upon their watch, unhoused, unpitied, and unseen :—a fire, the embers of which they can with difficulty keep alive, is their melancholy companion, and, trifling as it is, their only comfort. Can it be wondered

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dered at then, if they escape from such a cold and cheerless situation, when the eye of suspicion may not be awake to watch them, and when internal comforts will not give way to external duty, and throw themselves upon chance alone for their protection and safety ? The cattle are in general more noisy and unruly when the atmosphere is disturbed, than when it is calm and settled :—and surely, when exertions at such a time are expected ; when they have to encounter, not only heavy rains, and drenching dews, and piercing winds ; not only the inclemencies of these different, and at some times contending enemies, but likewise the more importunate assailants of thirst and hunger ; when such exertions, I again repeat, are at such a time expected ; the poor negroes are certainly entitled to the necessaries of life, at least, if not its comforts ; of the latter they are supposed but seldom to taste ; and of the former, I am afraid, they are too frequently deprived.

There

There is something, when a sharp north sets in, that is particularly, though painfully, romantic in the observation of a pen of cattle, when seated upon the point of a hill; when the eye is alternately cast upon the projecting mountains behind, which form, on that side, a night of shade; when it wanders over the surrounding scenery, and loses itself at last upon the placid objects and extensive plains below; when the moon just darts its ascending rays in partial light upon the catching hill; when the divisions by which the pens are marked, begin to receive its lustre; when the drops of dew upon the backs of the cattle are engemmed by its rays; and when their bodies receive the light, and project the shadows; when a cow, just disturbed, begins to low with a suppressed and solitary, but complaining murmur; and when the remainder of the fold is sunk in quiet rumination, and seems unconscious of the showers that scud along, or of the winds that whistle round: when these different images are brought home to  
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the mind, they cannot fail to impress it with that species of rural pleasure which is the natural characteristic of such a situation, of such a night, and in such an island.

The scenes that most commonly prevail and strike in an English landscape, are those which are pleasing from tranquillity, and which delight from the apparent invitations to repose. Such are the views, particularly about London, that are generally sought after, and to represent which, the grounds are modelled and improved. The objects that furnish these delights are few, are not far from selection, nor difficult to procure. The removal of a few hedges will lay open a paddock; a few ponds thrown into one, will make, in proportion to the narrow dimensions of the inclosure, an apparent lake, particularly if its extremities be confined or hid by a judicious choice of vegetation; and a few shrubs and a little gravel will make a wilderness where impatience may be wearied

ried in the walk of a mile, may have passed over bridges, or sought in vain for coolness and for shade in a narrow pavilion and a circumscribed alcove.

Those villas that have the good fortune to be contiguous to the Thames, or to any other river that bears the burden of commerce or the refinements of pleasure upon its buoyant and transparent streams, are too often made obsequious, in their improvements, to these advantages of chance and situation. However broken the ground, and however divided into different parts the accompaniments may be—yet the general characteristic of such spots, when forced by art or adornments uncongenial to the nature of the land, will be found to be little less than an assemblage of trifles; and will weary the eye and the understanding by the sameness and uniformity of the scenes. The river is the principal feature of the landscape; and to this consequential object are sacrificed situation, sense, and convenience;

convenience; the ideas of sequestration, of shady groves, of gloomy walks, and every thing, indeed, that does not immediately contribute to the smoothness of the lawn, the trimness of the inclosure, the verdure of the banks, and the polish of the streams.

A scene that is entirely exposed and open to the intrusion of every eye, is destitute of the first charms of rural delight,—of private seclusion, and confidential enjoyment. There are few lovers of nature who do not wish to retire from the crowded terrace to the lonely glade, from the burblings of the horn to the warblings of the thrush, from the rumbling of carriages to the murmurs of the torrent, or the precipitation of the cascade. In public gardens, or in forests, we hanker still for private situations; and in private situations we should confine our search to those objects only that are expressive of the scene: nay, if there be but one object  
that

that should be prominent, should be picturesque and grand.

The planter, whom suspicion or curiosity may carry out to explore his pens at such a time, when every object around has something of a romantic cast, cannot fail, while the watchmen are in conversation, or trimming their fires, or preparing their mess, to hear, from a distance, the shrill and sudden cry of some passing negro intrude upon the silence of the night, and endeavour, by noise and perseverance, to dispel from his thoughts the dæmon of darkness; and which, without this superstitious ceremony, he would fancy that he beheld at every turn, and that he heard in every blast.

There is a something in darkness that is particularly dreadful to children, and even observable in those from the imaginations of whom uncommon pains have been taken, but without effect, to dispel its terrors. The first ideas of the mind are

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not

not more open to fears, than they are to confidence; and it is much to be lamented that the impressions that are left upon their understandings by those who have the care and attendance of their early years, are more commonly those of apprehension, than those that may and ought to be applied to a contrary tendency.

In infancy, the page of life is without a blot; and the first characters that may be written upon it will not suffer erasure, nor be easily effaced: and surely, when so much of the future comfort, as well as happiness of it, must depend upon this eventful moment, it is the duty of the parent to give such a bias to the growing perception, as may rather teach it to despise, than to dread, alarm: and the trial should be made, however unsuccessful may be the event. But as the first dawnings of reason are chiefly left to the unlettered and unreflecting, to old women and nurses who have been brought up perhaps in prejudices; and who detail, with all the exaggerations

rations of age and loquacity, those stories of ghosts, giants, and enchanted castles, which they themselves had formerly heard, and at the recital of which they still continue to tremble;—it cannot be wondered at if they communicate their perceptions to those of infants, and that hence a dread arises, of which they cannot easily divest themselves in their future progress through the changeful and alarming scenes of life.

After what has been remarked, can we be then surprised that a similar dread is observed in negroes, who imbibing with the mother's milk the mother's ignorance, and who, without instruction in the early or advancing periods of society, grow with prejudices and with passions, which, as they have not ever been corrected, must still continue at least, if not increase?

The fear of darkness is not less observable in the African, than it is in the Creole, negroes; nor is there a punishment

which either of them can with less patience and resignation endure, than a total exclusion of society and light; and of which I think it a cruel policy, and equally dangerous to their spirits and their health, for any length of time to have them deprived.

The very idea of a poor and timid creature thus wandering, as before observed, in the night, when shrouded by darkness, or drenched beneath the shower, with apprehension his constant companion, and hunger and thirst perhaps his importunate attendants,—the solemn reflections that are peculiar to the midnight hour, the awful appearance of the scenes around, the pattering of the rain, the sighings of the wind, and the rustling of the leaves, have a singular influence, when combined together, upon the imagination, and leave an impressive languor upon the mind of him who has been long acquainted with sickness and affliction.

The

The delights of melancholy (the most rational and instructive passion of the human soul) may be complacently indulged in every situation, and in every latitude; but if the surrounding objects shall combine their influence, and, instead of images of tranquillity and pleasure, shall produce only those that partake of contrary impressions, the mind will naturally contrast the one with the other, and either lament the cheerful moments that are past, or endeavour to reconcile itself by the softness of sorrow, and the consolatory assuages of resignation to the pressure of the moment. It is at such a time that imagination will hang with mournful remembrance upon those regions where every mountain has its splendours and reflections, its shadows and its night; where every valley has its different interest, and every plain its local charms; where every desert may furnish a lesson for life, and every strand remind us of the certainty of our end.

There are but few images in nature that are more congenial to the contemplative man, who delights in the silence and solemnity of that hour, when all the passions of the mind, excepting sorrow, appear to be asleep, than a solitary walk amidst the bamboo-canes, when the moon-beam darts partially here and there amidst their shadows, when the dew-drops glitter on the leaves, and not a sound is heard, save the plaintive whispers of the plantain and the banana-trees that wave with drowsy murmur around the watchman's hut, and seem to invite with gentle blandishment to social conversation or repose.

I have frequently dwelt upon these seeming retreats of innocent retirement, and upon the situations of their inhabitants, oblivious of the world, its contentions and disappointments, its suspenses and its cares, until I could almost fancy that, instead of the hovel of a slave, I was reflecting upon the habitation of an hermit.

At

At such a time, when the soul is buried, as it were, in its own reflections, the least noise disturbs the mind, and breaks in upon the connection of thought: it laments, for a time, the interruption of silence, but soon grows familiar with even the sounds of discordance, and rejoices to find companions, although in darkness. Should the voice of contentment in sudden and broken murmurs resound from the watchman's hut, or the wild and simple warbles of the bender, which in the hands of taste and science might be made to produce the most sweet and pathetic modulations, or the melancholy diapasons of the Caramantee flutes conjoin their rural harmony,—the ear that catches will convey the impressive language to the heart; and which will then find more real comfort, derived from this solemn though simple melody, than it ever felt of joy and exultation in the more tumultuous and gaudy dissipations of life.

The bender is an instrument upon which the Whydaw negroes, I believe, in particular, excel. It is made of a bent stick, the ends of which are restrained in this direction by a slip of dried grass; the upper part of which is gently compressed between the lips, and to which the breath gives a soft and pleasing vibration; and the other end is graduated by a slender stick that beats upon the nerve, if I may so express it, and confines the natural acuteness of the sound, and thus together produce a trembling, a querulous, and a delightful harmony.

I had a watchman very near my house, whose hut was close to the entrance of a bamboo-walk of considerable length, and which was surrounded by plantain-trees and other shrubs, through the former of which the midnight winds were heard to sigh; and on the latter, the nightingales seemed to contend in strength and sweetness of song; and when they paused, the bender took up, with its wild and various modulation, the rural strain, or joined in

chorus the melancholy notes that were poured around. The combined effects of these impressions upon the mind, when the body has been long confined to sickness, and when languor and resignation almost make the patient indifferent to life, can hardly be experienced, excepting by those who have been in the situation above described.

The Caramantee-flutes are made from the porous branches of the trumpet-tree, are about a yard in length, and of nearly the thickness of the upper part of a bassoon: they have generally three holes at the bottom; are held, in point of direction, like the hautboy; and while the right hand stops the holes, in the left is shaken, by one of the party, a hollow ball that is filled with pebbles: but this instrument falls very far short of the other in modulation. I have frequently heard these flutes played in parts; and I think the sounds they produce are the most affecting, as they are the most melancholy, that I ever remember to

have heard. The high notes are uncommonly wild, but yet are sweet ; and the lower tones are deep, majestic, and impressive. Upon the dejected mind, and particularly at night, they have a very tender and affecting influence, insomuch that hypochondriac dispositions will be sensibly softened, if not entirely overcome, by their intonations.

The notes of the bender might, I think, be introduced in solo parts, into some of our lighter symphonies and airs, or might perhaps have a pleasing effect, if played behind the scenes, and to fill up some of the pauses of the accompanied recitatives : and the Caramantee-flutes might, in solemn strains, particularly in choruses, be made to produce a most tender and sublime expression. No sounds can be more pathetically sweet, more sentimentally elevated, or more exquisitely deep ; and I cannot help thinking that, in point of tone, it surpasses any single instrument with which I am acquainted.

I have

I have often wished that my friend Parsons had heard, and could have instructed musicians in the execution of these different instruments, as his superior, though modest talents (and hence a pleasing commendation) would have made them valuable, if not in the chaste and spirited accompaniments of his airs, at least in the pathetic episodes, if I may so express it, of his sentimental and learned choruses; and in which he has displayed a taste and judgment, upon which professors, unprejudiced by country or by name, have bestowed the most warm and just encomiums. How enviable must be the character of him, whose music is not more soft than his manners, and whose talents, as a musician, must lose, when compared to his virtues as a man! This inadequate oblation to friendship, I am proud, in this public manner, to pay: but how shall I ever be able to discharge that unwearied attention and unremitting kindness, which have been, since my arrival in England, the principal support, as the most soothing consolation,

solation, of my misfortunes? Happy in his own science, and distinguished by a long list of the most exalted acquaintances, he is blest with another advantage in domestic peace,—with the possession of a woman who would reflect an honour upon the most elevated situations of life; and to whom, not only my attention, but my gratitude, are eternally due.

In the elegant and learned work which Doctor Burney has composed and published upon the History of Music, it would, I conceive, have been a matter of pleasure and curiosity, if the description of these different instruments had found a place; and if he had signified his ideas how, and upon what a scale of composition, they might, with advantage and effect, have been employed: a description that would have even given variety to a work which is already voluminously new, and that has scarcely room for fresh attractions!

In

In this compilation, undertaken with so much enthusiasm, continued with so much patience, and completed with so much success, are conspicuously apparent, a profundity of science, a judgment of criticism, an extent of erudition, a knowledge of execution, and a refinement of taste, that will make it admired wherever read, and remain a national classic for the delight and improvement of a future age.

The author has contrived, by a judicious arrangement of his materials, by apposite illustrations, and erudite quotations, to make that instructive to some, and entertaining to all, which, perhaps, in other hands, might have been considered as a barren and uninteresting subject, and hardly deserving the study and perseverance of a man of genius.

To the travels and cursory observations of this gentleman, the musical world is likewise much indebted. He has been long a sedulous and a patient labourer in  
the

the fields of investigation and taste; and it is to be hoped that the harvest has yielded abundance to the sickle, and that but little chaff has remained in that corn which he has taken so much pains to cleanse.

The public have obligations to him of another kind. The novels of his daughter, Miss Burney, have displayed, by intuition as it were, a knowledge of mankind, which has been rarely equalled, if ever surpassed. They have fixed the general attention; and the expectations of her readers have increased with every page, their entertainment augmented in every volume, and their applause has been only confined by that regret which must be the natural consequence of their conclusion.

I cannot sufficiently acknowledge the obligations I am under to the musical kindness of his nephew, Mr. Charles Burney, whose magic execution and exquisite performance have been always made subservient to the amusement of his friends;

friends; and whose inoffensive manners and goodness of heart, I find some comfort, from a long and intimate experience of their value, to extol.

The writings of Doctor Burney have certainly much directed and improved the public taste; and of that passion for good music which is now observable in England, much may be attributed to him; and for which he is consequently entitled to much of public and of private gratitude.

When the mind and the body have long continued in a state of suspense or painful endurance, what amuses the first will help to dispel the languor of the last; and the melancholy consolations of life may be more efficacious in such a state, than the pursuits of gaiety, and the resources of convivial, and of other noisy and tumultuous enjoyments,

When our reflections take a colour from the solemn scenery around, the intrusion

of every ray is painful, and every song of cheerfulness disgusts; the ear resigns itself to melancholy tones, and expels from our thoughts every image that cannot help to feed our predilection of grief; while every object that can contribute to this melting passion beats in unison to every nerve, and makes it vibrate to the kindred passion.

When fable Night all nature shrouds  
With her thick veil of mantling clouds,  
In the lone cloister's awful shade,  
Where sculptur'd busts and tombs are laid,  
Where statues seem to breathe in stone,  
And new-made graves mix bone with bone—  
I love to walk; and with a sigh  
Observe where kings with beggars lie.

My soul delights, when hymns inspire  
The organ's breath, and wake the quire,  
To follow, with the melting eye,  
The white procession passing by;  
To hear the plaintive voices join,  
And echo back the sounds divine.  
The moral impulse I commend,  
When Music is Religion's friend.

There are but few people, in any situation  
or state of life, who are not to be exhilarated

rated or moved by some national or foreign music. It seems to be a general language, felt, expressed, and acknowledged by all : and it is somewhat singular, as if to mark its universal extent and combination, that its characters of expression, with very little variation, are the same in every tongue. Its descent may be traced from the origin of things (nay, we are even told of the harmony of the spheres) ; may be deduced from the most rude and barbarous nations, till, creeping gradually through its different refinements, it may purify from age to age, and may still continue to improve for ages to come, without exhausting variety, or attaining its *ne plus ultra* of perfection.

Notwithstanding the comparative excellence to which it is now arrived, the professors of this delightful science may, in a future period, look down with contempt upon the skill of the present age, and may improve upon that execution, and transcend that melody which may be thought, by the partiality of the times, to be hardly

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capable of farther extension, and thence to be unequivocally perfect.

There are not, I believe, and as I before observed, any people, of any climate or situation of life, who are not, some time or other, to be awakened into feeling, or softened by the expression, of artificial or rural music.

*These* noise delight ; the angry hum  
Of whistling wind, the rattling drum,  
The cannon's roar, or trumpet's breath,  
That calls the brave to fame or death :  
Those love with list'ning ear to dwell ;  
And catch the gently-rising swell ;  
While others love to breathe the sigh,  
And, with the dying cadence, die.

Some, rural sounds and music please—  
The purling rill, or fanning breeze,  
Or chimes of bells that (distant) ring,  
Which echoes down the river bring.

Some list to hear, on neighb'ring boughs,  
The plaintive turtles coo their vows ;  
And these, while mournful heifers low,  
A sympathetic note bestow.

There

There is a pleasing bustle among the negroes, when they prepare to leave their huts, and to visit their grounds in the morning; when their different families, of various ages, sizes, and complexions (white excepted), put their little caravans, if I may so call them, into motion; and anticipate, with hoes, bills, and baskets, their approaching labour, or the loads of plenty with which they are to return.

The stir and impatience that is observed among their houses, with their picturesque appearance among the trees and shrubs with which they are surrounded, (and which mark with penquins, or other productions, the extent of their bounds) may be carried from nature to the easel, and produce a variety of features and of attitudes, and with such corresponding accompaniments, as would not have disgraced the pencil of Teniers, or the accurate imitation of Du Sart.

A negro village is full of those picturesque beauties in which the Dutch  
 Q 2                      painters

painters have so much excelled; and is very particularly adapted to the expression of those situations, upon which the scenes of rural dance and merriment may be supposed with the greatest conveniency to have happened. The forms and appearances of the houses admit of every variety which this particular species of rural imagery requires; and the surrounding objects of confined landscape, with the vulgar adjuncts of hogs, poultry, cats, baskets, chairs, and stools, are always at hand to fill up the canvass, and to give sense to nature, and truth and novelty to the representation of the scene.

Some of the villages of the negroes are built in strait lines, and some are confusedly huddled together; but those are infinitely the most picturesque that are surrounded, as many are (particularly those which have not been visited and destroyed by the late storms), by plantain, coco-nut trees, and shrubs. The houses consist of a hall in the middle, to which there are generally

generally two doors, one opposite the other: and in this hall they cook their victuals, sit, chat, and smook; nor do they hardly ever leave it without a fire. The sleeping-rooms have a communication with this general apartment; and are in number, according to the consequence of the inhabitant, either two, three, or four; one of which is sometimes floored, and sometimes adorned with a Venetian window. In the garden behind them is often another hut, which serves for buttery, store-house, stock-house, or a general repository: and, independently of these, they have pig-sties enclosed, and hogs in proportion to their credit and condition.

The negro-houses are situated as near as possible to a river, or a spring; as it is of consequence to the comforts and necessities of those who inhabit them, that they should have the easy convenience of clean and wholesome water; and that of Jamaica is not surpassed, particularly near or at no great distance from the source, by

this element, for pureness, coolness, and spirit, in any part of the habitable world.

Upon the banks of these rivers a great variety of picturesque groups is occasionally observed. Some negroes are seen diving into the springs, some washing themselves, and some their clothes. Some, the children in particular, are seen to dive like fish under the arches, over which is conducted the water that turns the mill; some stand upon the edges of the wooden bridge (which is scarcely elevated above the current), and receive the splashes of those below. They sometimes take a circuit upon the banks, and then plunge one after another into the running stream: and these gambols of the children I have often looked upon with perseverance and delight; and they are such as Pollenberg might have imitated without any degradation of his taste or art.

Those negroes that are born upon estates abundant in water, very soon become almost

most amphibious; and it is astonishing to see to what depths they will dive, from what cataracts descend, and for how long a time they will continue submerged without the necessity of aspiration: and of this I shall give some remarkable instances, when I come to treat of their river-fishing.

The negro children of both sexes very soon become expert divers, and able swimmers; and if it be considered at what a very tender age they venture into danger, it is astonishing to think how seldom an accident is known to happen. Sometimes, indeed, in the rainy seasons, and when the rivers on a sudden rise, they are carried away, if they be too far distant from the mother's eye and out of other protection, by the swell and impetuosity of the torrents; and for this reason I think they should not be suffered to attend them, when they are obliged to go from home to wash, or to attend to other avocations.

Two or three coco-nut or orange trees adjoining to a negro's hut, are a little fortune; and I think it a pity that they are not encouraged in, rather than discouraged from, the plantation of different fruits. Some people have an idea, that, if the negro-houses be surrounded with clumps of vegetation, they may carry on every species of villainy without reserve; and to counteract which, they are in many places entirely exposed: nor do I find that this practice has ever removed the evils complained of; for the negroes are not better now, than when it was the custom to have their habitations entirely concealed. The houses are not now so picturesque as they formerly were; nor do I believe that they are more healthy; for the more the negroes are defended from air, the better will they, in general, be in health and spirits: for when they go to their grounds, or turn out to work in the morning, they very sensibly feel the alteration of the chilly air, when opposed to the warmth of their fires; and you see them tremble amidst the dews,  
and

and shiver to the breeze, with as much feeling as you observe represented in the tremors of the peasantry in colder climates.

As many of the negro-grounds are at a considerable distance from the plantation, in their journey thither may be observed many very pleasing and romantic situations, alternately varied by mountains and by dells, by water and by trees, and by many other enchanting varieties of rural imagery, that are peculiarly observable in the sequestered and the silent spots of that romantic region.

You now perceive a string of negroes in their matin march, while the vapours smoak around (having first with deliberate caution bound up their clothes), one after the other wade through the head of a spring, part of which is fordable, though deep; and the depth of which is in other parts unfathomable; and the waters of which are as pellucid as crystal, and as cool as ice; and  
coolness

coolness is, I think, a general property of all the mountain-springs I have seen in Jamaica.

From a bed of water of this description, there is seen to grow out a beautiful and tufted clump of tall and verdant thatch trees, which spread their broad and fringed leaves (umbrella-like) in massy shadows, and darken with their gloom the reflecting crystal of the lake below; and through the dimpling waters of which the passenger observes, with momentary delight, the mullet, and in some particular situations the calapavre, dart, and catch the sunny rays.

The limpid waters are seen in this place to divide, and to spread themselves irregularly into different channels; and in another to form a clear, expansive mirror; from whence they hasten in their course, and rush with increasing rapidity to the ledges of a rock, from whence they precipitate themselves in a hollow sounding and a

white cascade. In other parts they wind slowly through the docks, the cresses, and the weeds; and drill a channel through a caverned rock, through which they murmur out of sight; and creeping over the pebbles and the sands, regain by stealth the growing stream, and lose themselves at last in the absorbing eddy, or reach perhaps with their diminished waters, and pour their remnant into, the receiving, but unconscious, sea.

You now perceive the negroes in their march, pass by an enormous cotton-tree, which appears to guard with its gigantic limbs, the passage of the stream; and farther on you see them increase their speed, and either singing or smocking, pursue their journey through a winding road, which now descends into a dell, now stretches into a valley, and now loses itself among the projecting trees, and shadows of the hills.

They

They now arrive at a watchman's hut, rekindle their pipes, and converse a while; and while some plunge into the neighbouring waters, there are others who unload their burdens, and repose themselves upon a bank that divides the streams, or sit in pensive mood upon some inviting rock, and ruminate upon the springs that bubble near. Sometimes they swell a melancholy chorus, or pause, and listen to the doves that coo around.

Here is seen a blue and circular basin, the profundity of which cannot be measured by the plummet and the line, and over which the branching trees spread forth their verdant canopies, and inclose its waters with an artificial night; there, a grove of coco or chocolate-nut trees protrude their bulbous and purple pods from the rinds of the stems and branches: and there too the calabash-tree displays its fantastic boughs, and puts forth in the same mode of vegetation, its large and green productions; and from which the  
negroes

negroes make their dishes and their spoons, and other utensils of domestic and necessary convenience.

As they advance in their way, and impatient of the heat, some friendly cave invites them to coolness, and often provokes a temporary repose; and of these there are in the country a great variety, and many of them remarkable for extent or beauty; and of which the following description of one in particular, conveys but a weak and unsatisfactory idea.

This cave is one of the most beautiful natural curiosities of its kind I ever remember to have seen; and I do not scruple to prefer what there is of it to any single part, the chancel not excepted, of that celebrated one at Castleton in Derbyshire.

This latter is infinitely more extensive, and may possibly derive an additional interest from the wildness of the country in  
 VOL. I. which

which it is situated, and from the barren appearance of the scenes around. It has likewise the advantage of water; and the imagination, as the passenger lays himself down at the bottom of the boat to be ferried under the rocks, may figure to itself subterraneous terrors, and magnify the surrounding objects into those of danger. The classical idea may go further; may recall Homer and Virgil to its remembrance, and assimilate, by poetic repetition, 'the doleful waters of Acheron with those that are either stagnant, or that wander through this tremendous cave; and of which it is indeed true, that

Above, no sky is seen; below,  
A turbid wave is seen to flow,  
Which scarcely, as it moves along,  
Deserves the tribute of a song.

But of the objects of those of Jamaica, it may be likewise said, that, wherever you turn,

They pleasure give, and cause surprise.  
Here incrustations strike your eyes;

There

There spangled domes, with lustre bright,  
 Beam down an artificial light,  
 Whence penfile hang in Gothic show,  
 Descending to the sands below,  
 Fantastic forms, in which you trace  
 The semblance of a human face ;  
 Of anchorites oppress'd by years,  
 Whose cheeks are furrow'd deep with tears,  
 And who, protending forth their glasses,  
 Remind you how the moment passes.

The entrance into this cave has not any thing of the appearance of that so constantly visited by curiosity in the Peak : it does not strike at first with that horror which a village buried underneath a mountain, and situated in the opening jaws of a cavern, must naturally occasion ; and which, while it adds to your surprise, at the same time melts you with compassion, when you observe the miserable appearance of its inhabitants, whose seeming poverty corresponds with the naked prospects of the country ; and from the barren scenes of which they fly, to hide themselves and wants in the depths of solitude, and the gloomy protection of night.

The

The entrance which conducts the observer into the one I am now endeavouring to describe, is narrow indeed, but not fatiguing: it is formed into arches, which in a manner exclude the light, and serve as a screen to what is hid below.

The internal structure of the building, in which Nature has been the only architect, does not impress less from its simplicity than grandeur, and may possibly pour a train of ideas upon the mind which may accompany the man of curiosity and observation into our cathedrals and other public buildings, which are calculated to inspire with devotion, and to fill with awe. They may likewise encourage sentiments of another cast; and may conduct us from fear to pleasure, and from silence to the investigation of sound, and from incorporeal darkness unto cheerfulness and light.

There are many ideas of pleasure, that may be likewise cherished in these subterraneous

aneous abodes; and he who visits them may with justice exclaim:

Here, as you walk, devoid of fears,  
The opening cave more grand appears;  
And petrifications, all around,  
Reverberate a tuneful sound;  
And as their hollow tubes distill,  
And trickle down with pearly rill,  
The pearly rill so late that shone,  
Nature's alembic turns to stone.

The first dome that you observe at your entrance into this Jamaica cavern, is hung with masses of petrifications that form themselves into imaginary aisles and fantastic recesses; and when the light of the torches begins to shine among the columns, they much resemble the fretted work that serves for the vaulted ornaments of Gothic buildings, and which are at once remarkable for an assemblage of weight, and distinguished as an integral standard of lightness and simplicity.

As you proceed, there swells, a little further on, another dome of considerable  
R height,

height, and of regular dimensions; and the vault of which is beautifully hung with various clusters of incrustation. The entrances of the different recesses, of which there are many, are supported by slender columns of petrifications, which, when struck, return a hollow sound; and which vary the depth of their tones, and the length of their vibrations, according to the thickness and extent of their tubes. The flambeaux that gleam around, and which throw their rays upon the black and white observers, produce a kind of stage effect; and something like which, is oftentimes introduced with success upon the French and the English theatres.

To the solemn ideas that arise from the investigation of caverns, may be added those of silence and seclusion; and while we are buried in subterranean darkness, which artificial light alone expels, we are still conscious that there glows over head, an expansive and a resplendent day, to warm the imagination, to fertilize the

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earth,

earth, and to serve as a contrast to the scenes below.

The darkness that enshrouds the body, has a sensible effect upon the vigour of the mind. It has not spirits to expatiate, nor opportunities to investigate, the charms of nature and of truth. Confined, as it were, to local ideas, and those too of a gloomy and unprofitable cast, it laments the loss of new impressions; and although it may find comfort, it cannot strike out happiness from its own reflections: and this melancholy truth all those can witness who have been deprived of liberty by the rapacity, the treachery, the villainy, and the cruelty of men, or who have brought upon themselves the misery of confinement by their own follies, imprudence, or neglect. There are but few men who could, like Cervantes, have added dignity to misfortune, and have taught the pen to charm in the confines of a gaol.

As the human mind is naturally inquisitive, it would be happy for it if it could turn its search to objects of consolation and improvement, instead of brooding over its sorrows, and numbering its disappointments; and could learn to dispel the first, and to forget the last.

There is a certain period of misery, beyond which our sufferings cannot extend; and this reflection should strengthen our endurance, as at the last imagination may have increased our terrors, and even the worst may prove not near so bad as we expected.

If the solitary man (that is, if solitary from necessity) cannot find a resource in his own reflections, he may look in vain for external consolation and service. Misfortune is, as it were, a living grave, in which the ideas of former society, of former obligations, of former friendships, are at once forgotten. The man who could flatter your vanity in prosperity,

city, and affect an attachment to your person, and a zeal for your service,—in your adversity (although occasioned by a combination of circumstances that rather require compassion than neglect) will drop the mask, and exhibit the unblushing features of hypocrisy and art; and will add perhaps the cowardice of insult to the injustice of reproach.

Every prosperous man should reflect that he may some time or other become unfortunate; and if he have not sufficient charity to overlook the faults of others, let him only reflect how much he must be consequently humbled by a remembrance of his own. Let him likewise consider that he upon whose weakness he has trampled with all the barbaric insolence of power, may some time or other arise from humiliation, and retort the injuries he has received; or may, which would be a more glorious triumph, not only forget them, but forgive.

I now return to the subjects that occasioned the above reflections, and shall introduce such ideas as still have a communication with my former remarks.

A speculative mind may easily suppose that it was from some original observance and contemplation of Nature, that mankind derived their first ideas of building; and I should imagine that to the naturalist, and to the philosopher, it must be pleasing to investigate the origin, progress, and perfection of science and of art, throughout its various channels and combinations.

In the early stages of the world, before necessity had awakened the indolence, and luxury excited the genius, of men, it may be reasonably supposed that the trees that afforded shade, and the caves that gave shelter, to the beast, might likewise have protected him; and that, according to the forms and proportions of these objects of nature,

nature, they might, by imitation, have adapted their own.

The Goths (from what may be observed in other countries) may have taken their primary ideas of architecture, for what we know, from caverns; may have derived their notions of fretted roofs, from natural incrustations; may have grouped their columns from the same objects; and have swelled the dome, or stretched the aisle, from the same grand and elegant, though simple, originals.

The ideas of the organ might have been originally taken from the external appearance of one of the penile productions before described; it might have been bored from an examination of the perforated tube of this singular and beautiful ornament; and as confined air is the cause of sound, it might by chance have been discovered that these tubes, when gently touched, conveyed a deep and a pleasing intonation; and hence we may derive some gratifica-

tion in tracing from the foundations of Nature, the perfection of art.

The caverns in Jamaica furnish another idea—a melancholy one indeed! and such as cannot, even at this distance of time, be reflected upon without sentiment, and without horror.

There are many people who believe that these caves have been the inhuman depositories of the skeletons of those original and wretched inhabitants whom the cruel policy of the Spaniards hunted down, and who, in the course of a very considerable number of years, were exterminated, and became totally, and as it were at once, extinct. An instance of human destruction that cannot be exceeded in the bloody histories of any age or country!

Of these unhappy victims the account has been so purposely obscure, and the tale of their misfortunes so little known, that it seems as if human nature had  
blushed

blushed at the persecution, and had endeavoured to erase from the annals of mankind, their existence with their sufferings.

This particular period seems to be a blank in the history of the country; nor is it possible to read the little we know without horror, and an honest resentment against, and a warrantable execration of, that name which has been so often a blast to the happiness, and fatal to the existence, of mankind.

The Spanish nation, though many centuries behind the rest of Europe, begins now to emerge from darkness, and to look for the light of science, and the comforts of improvement; and the time may come when it will neglect the excavation of the mine, to cultivate those more certain and durable riches, that may be gathered with more ease and profit from the surface of the soil.

The

The Spaniards are now gaining ground in practical manners and liberal refinement; and much may be reasonably expected from the present reign, the dawn of which has already begun to expel that night in which the nation has been for centuries involved. Did the hand of industry but second the advantages of nature, there are but few kingdoms that could rival that of Spain; and were civilization and liberty to accompany climate, it might be almost considered as a terrestrial Paradise. Those sentiments of rigid honour and unbiaſſed integrity that were formerly considered as innate virtues in the inhabitants of that country, are ſtill to be found in full vigour in the provinces, and which nothing perhaps but the influx of foreign manners and cuſtoms could have driven from the capital. The policy of other nations has too long governed *that*—it is now time that the inhabitants ſhould open their eyes to their own intereſts, ſuſtain their own importance, and convince the world that they are not only wealthy, but  
may

may again become, as they once were, by courage and by conduct, respectable and great.

The revolution of a neighbouring kingdom, that seemed from stability and proscription to bid defiance to internal commotion, has been now convulsed to the very centre; and the standard of liberty is now seen flying upon those walls which formerly took a pride in obedience; and in those breasts which once found glory in a cheerful submission to the will, the protection, and the power of one exalted individual,

It is not the character of the British nation to insult misfortune, however it may have suffered from the intrigues of that Power which now, alas! (and such is the vicissitude of human affairs) is laid perhaps too low.

Now would be the time to protrude the hand, to compose dissension, to stifle rebellion,

bellion, to assist innocence, to substantiate liberty, and hence to protect and fix upon an immutable basis the inherent rights of men.

If there can be any scourge more dreadful to a country, than internal rebellion and sanguinary proscription, it is that of famine; and this additional plague now rages with all its horrors, not only in the capital, but the provinces, of France; and may possibly sweep away many thousands whom the sword will spare.

It must be surely distressing to a generous and enlightened nation, which wars without resentment, and which covets peace from principles of humanity, to be incapable, without a risque of similar disasters, to relieve the calamitous situation of a sister kingdom; a kingdom which, while her towns are deluged with blood, sees Famine leave her victims in the streets, and every closing night anticipate the horrors of the approaching day.

Let

Let us turn (with heart-felt pity, and a faithful wish to relieve these dire necessities) to our own concerns and situation, and contrast the abundance, the peace, and happiness, which, from a variety of combining circumstances, we now so particularly enjoy.

Our little Island is now become, in a more flattering manner than ever it was, a refuge to the persecuted, and an asylum to distress; and while it is considered with envy, it can *command* respect.

How different is the situation of *our* Sovereign from that of the *great* Monarque!—Great he still is, but it is in humiliation and affliction; while ours is very distant from his capital, communicating pleasure to his subjects, and calling down their daily blessings. The business of the State proceeds with quiet order and political arrangement. The hydra of dissension is lulled by the prudence and firmness of ministerial measures; and while the sails of  
com-

commerce crowd into our ports, the blessings of plenty adorn our hills, and cover our plains.

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I suppose the negroes to be now arrived in their grounds, and to spread themselves, according to their connexions, over the face of the mountains, the trees of which have been recently felled for copper-wood and lime, and selecting such spots, upon the elevations and bottoms, as are best adapted to their provisions; and a description of which, with their peculiar manner of planting, and the system and period of cultivation, will be minutely noticed, when I come to consider those productions which are only inferior to the sugar-cane in profit and in use.

Where they collect themselves into groups upon some retired spot, from which the wood has not been cleared, and have to work their way amongst the withes, the bushes, and the rocks, they sometimes throw themselves into picturesque

resque and various attitudes; and as the different clumps of vegetation begin to fall around them, the light is gradually induced, and shines in playful reflections upon their naked bodies and their clothes; and which oppositions of black and white make a very singular, and very far from an unpleasing, appearance. Their different instruments of husbandry, particularly their gleaming hoes, when uplifted to the sun, and which, particularly when they are digging cane-holes, they frequently raise all together, and in as exact time as can be observed, in a well-conducted orchestra, in the bowing of the fiddles, occasion the light to break in momentary flashes around them.

Some of their grounds are adjoining to roads and paths, and some are buried in the bosoms of the most sequestered dells; in many of which are seen to arise majestic trees of an amazing height and thickness, and which are not, excepting by strength and too often by bodily danger, to be levelled  
to

to the ground. This tedious occupation is left to the men, who very frequently fall a sacrifice to their exertions: indeed I have heard instances quoted, where several at a time have been crushed to death by the fall of a single tree.

When a tract of negro-provisions is regularly planted, is well cultivated, and kept clean, it makes a very husbandlike and a beautiful appearance; and it is astonishing what quantities of the common necessaries of life it will produce. A quarter of an acre of this description will be fully sufficient for the supply of a moderate family, and may enable the proprietor to carry some to market besides; but then the land must be of a productive quality, be in a situation that cannot fail of seasons, be sheltered from the wind, and protected from the trespass of cattle, and the theft of negroes.

If a small portion of land of this description will give such returns, a very  
con-

considerable number of acres, if not attended to, will; on the contrary, yield but little: and those negroes will hardly ever have good grounds, and of consequence a plenty of provisions, who are not allowed to make for themselves a choice of situation, and who are not well assured that it be well guarded and protected.

The landscapes that are to be found in situations like these, are confined and gloomy; and taking almost always the same features, will hardly admit of much description. The pleasures of silence, occasioned by retirement, and of gloom, where the plantain spreads its branches round, may there have their partial influence; but there is little music to cheer this solitude: the nightingale, which is in Europe a timid bird; and loves to bury himself among the thickest shades, is yet in Jamaica, pert, courageous, and intrusive; is oftentimes, particularly when watching its nest, not only impudently social, but does not seem to fear the hawk or man.

Of this bird I have frequently had occasion to mention the perfection of song. It would be difficult to describe its animation, its exercise, and courage. It seems to possess a large soul in a little body: it is in a continual flutter of gallantry and insult; but makes ample amends, in its quiet state, for its offences, and seems to implore forgiveness in the most enchanting and various modulations that the ear can possibly imbibe.

The making of lime is a very heavy job upon all plantations, but more particularly so upon those where wood is with difficulty to be procured, the stones to be collected at a distance, and the carriage consequently long and tedious.

Among the mountains it is procured with more convenience and dispatch, than it can possibly be upon the plains: the materials are near at hand; and as the kiln is generally constructed in a sort of cock-pit, the stones are easily rolled down from the  
sides

sides of the hills; the wood is likewise cut upon them, and thrown down, and very little cartage is of course required. In such a situation, it is astonishing to see in how short a space of time a sufficient quantity will be made to answer all the purposes of a plantation.

In the construction of a lime-kiln, many picturesque varieties are to be observed: the scene of action is indeed confined, but then it is full of business. The surrounding accompaniments of trees and rocks, of sounding axes, falling timber, and rolling stones, have, all together combined, their rural influence; while the growing labour at bottom rising story upon story, and narrowing as it approaches its conclusion, reminds you of the fruits of toil and perseverance.

It is generally likewise in situations such as this, that the copper-wood for the use of the curing-house and still-house, is procured; and the more near it is to the

works, and adjoining to a public road, the greater of course will be the convenience of carriage; an object of great consequence upon a plantation, and such as ought in a very especial manner to be duly attended to.

If the mountain-wood be difficult to procure, it makes infinitely better fuel than any, the logwood excepted, that is to be found upon the plain; and two loads of the first sort will go farther than three of the last description.

There is hardly any labour upon a plantation that consumes more time than the felling and carrying home this article, particularly where the labour of mules is necessary; and yet when it is arrived at the works, it is not to be conceived how much is wasted, and how soon a heap of two or three hundred loads is diminished to the eye, and how soon the remainder is either stolen or consumed.

Of

Of this article I do not think that the overseers are sufficiently provident, as it very frequently happens that they are obliged towards the end of the crop, and perhaps at a time when the rains are set in, and the roads among the mountains and upon the plains are consequently become bad, to look for a fresh supply, and hence for a time protract the operations of sugar-making; and at that period too, when what is made must be not only expensive, but likewise bad.

I do not think them sufficiently careful in collecting, drying, and preserving their trash; as I am convinced in my own mind, and from the general neglect of this article that I have observed, that by proper care and foresight almost every plantation may save a sufficiency of fuel, during one crop, to carry it at least half way through the ensuing one; and by this means afford an opportunity of saving a great part of the time and labour attendant upon the cutting of wood; for every estate

that makes one hundred hogsheads of sugar, will require, according to the present mode, at least one hundred and fifty loads. Upon some properties in the Island of St. Kitt's, they do not cut any, and for a good reason, because they have it not; the trash that is preserved being sufficient for all their wants. If upon such estates they do not grind more canes than are procured from seventy acres of land, or a very little more, and from these have a sufficiency of trash to boil, perhaps, one hundred and fifty or two hundred hogsheads of sugar, is it not strange that in Jamaica, when perhaps two hundred and fifty acres of canes are cut, the trash resulting from them shall not be sufficient to boil thirty? But such is the case; and for such mismanagement there should be found a remedy. How great must likewise be the difference in the production of the soil, when those seventy acres will make as much, or more sugar than two hundred will upon most estates in Jamaica! And yet I think that I  
have

have seen as stout and as tall canes in this latter island, as I saw upon those plantations that I had a cursory opportunity of visiting, in crop time, at St. Kitt's.

The transportation of the copper-wood upon the backs of mules, and from the depth of the mountains, is very fatiguing to both the man and beast, as they are constantly obliged to ascend, or to descend, and sometimes to work their length of way over rocks, torrents, and rivers ; in which journey are to be frequently discovered very pleasing and romantic spots. They sometimes pass through narrow roads, and consequently in a string one after another ; and now they meet with stones of such a size as entirely to bar their passage, and to form from their heights a precipice on one side, from which the eye looks down with giddiness and horror ; they now come to an extensive flat, adorned with a variety of timber of a majestic size ; and they now skirt the bottom of hills, which are likewise clothed with luxuriant

and useful vegetation : they now follow a curving line among the vallies and the dells, and from thence burst forth at once upon an interminable prospect of canes, of pasture, and of sea.

The cartage of the wood upon the level situations, is not attended with much variety ; nor does it afford any striking features for a lover of nature, excepting what may be gathered from the discriminations of cattle, and from the rural labours in which they are, in either the waggons or the carts, at that time employed : and the loading of which at the bottoms of the hills, the deposit of their burdens at the works, and the clouds of dust that they excite, are the only images that can at all interest or strike.

The roads in the mountains are certainly picturesque, and give variety at every turn, and alternately present you with every object that can either delight from verdure, can strike from brilliancy, can refresh by  
shade,

shade, or astonish by magnificence and danger; and this truth there is hardly an observer who has traversed them who cannot witness.

In the plains they likewise have their advantages and beauties; nor do I ever remember to have seen more pleasant and shady lanes than the logwoods form in the general communications of the Island, and which in some places take narrow, and in others broad, and shady sweeps. They sometimes lead you, through embowering arches of the most splendid green, to hedges that glow and salute the eye with the most gaudy productions; to narrow paths, the fences of which are entirely composed of limes, which, when in blossom, send forth a most rich and overwhelming fragrance; and behind which, and at equal distances, the coco-nut tree erects its spiral stem, and shoots forth its verdant canopy of branches, while the fruit hangs dangling down in pleasing invitation to the thirsty traveller, who may, without purchase or permission,  
regale

regale his lips with the delightful and salubrious beverage.

The traveller now winds his way among pastures that are filled with various cattle, and upon which the bamboo spreads forth its feathery shades, the bastard cedar expands its broad umbrella, the cashew exhibits its golden fruit, and the logwoods hang oppressed by their sweet and loaded blossoms.

He now gains an avenue of canes, over the intervals of which, as he journeys along, he sees them bend on either side their yellow stems and tufted masses, as if in salutation of his visit : he now crosses the bridge, or wades through the running stream, in which the cattle, unyoked from the plough, are making their cool ablutions ; and at last he gains the planter's house, or that of his overseer, and where, let his situation and condition be what they may, he is sure to receive an honest welcome. He is then invited, if the mill be about, to see the  
works,

works, and the operations of sugar and rum; is surprised perhaps at the many hands they employ, and the expence with which they are attended; and if he be a stranger, as I have all along supposed him to be, and the different objects shall strike him, from their novelty of use and ingenuity of contrivance, he will retire from their observation with that kind of secret pleasure which the mind naturally feels at the acquirement of a new idea.

I cannot in this place omit mentioning that general hospitality which is observed to reign all over the Island; and to which position there are but few people who visit the country from motives of curiosity, and who study their own pleasure in endeavouring to be pleasing to others, who will not be ready to subscribe.

The visit of a stranger, although he shall only make their house a conveniency, is always considered by the natives as an honour; and the longer it shall be  
pro-

protracted, and the more he shall be induced, from the reception he may have met with, to consider himself at home, the more will the proprietor acknowledge himself obliged. A letter of introduction to *one* gentleman will command for the bearer the rights of hospitality and service all over the Island. Nay, even vagrants are seldom refused protection and food: but these are lately become so numerous and worthless, have committed such outrages, and are found to be such nuisances in the country, that they are oftentimes considered with suspicion, and dismissed so soon as their natural wants shall be satisfied, and their spirits refreshed.

The objections that may be started against Jamaica by those who have an interest in the soil, and who consequently rather wish to see the country with an eye of business than with the delight of a naturalist, or the improvement of a painter, cannot affect the man of curiosity: and I cannot help thinking that a young artist, par-

particularly if he be of an inquisitive and an enthusiastic turn of mind, may devote a few years of his life with as much pleasure and profit to the imitation of the beautiful and romantic scenery of that Island, as he can possibly do in the more chosen situations of the European continent. I will suppose him only to pass twelve months in his voyage to and from, and in his investigation of that subject. Himself, and the necessaries of his art, may be transported with equal safety, and more convenience, by sea, than they can be done by land; and even his voyage may furnish him with the most various and enchanting ideas of water, and of sky: the masts, the sails, and the rigging, may produce the most playful reflections; and the brilliant and transparent bosom of the ocean, when covered with a matin vapour, or glowing beneath the rays of a rising sun, or tinted with the softer tones of its descending beams, may furnish the charms of colouring, and direct his imitation to those objects in which the pencils of  
Vandervelt

Vandervelt and Backhuysen have so greatly excelled.

As water is so pleasing, and is deemed so necessary a part of every landscape, its variations in tempests and in calms should be carefully examined, and faithfully copied, by every professor of the art; as there will always occasions arise, when either the terrors of the first, or the repose of the last, may be introduced with advantage, and give interest and variety to scenes which, without these particulars, might be considered as devoid of sense, and consequently without attractions.

The scenes of Tivoli, of Frascati, and Albano, have furnished for years the same ideas and imitations. Their beauties and varieties have been too frequently copied, and are hence too generally known to promise to the artist any further charms of novelty, or to awaken his enthusiasm and fix his surprise: and indeed, were his taste, his  
genius,

genius, his judgment, and his execution, ever so much distinguished, flattered, matured, or refined,—his utmost stretch and combination of abilities might be still discouraged, and his most sedulous and persevering exertions fail, when he only reflects that he is attempting those very subjects upon which a Salvator Rosa, a Gaspar Poussin, and a Claude Lorrain, have exhausted the magic powers of their art.

The views of the islands of the West-Indies may give scope to a new expansion of picturesque ideas; may inspire his fancy, provoke his imitation, and reward his genius; and he may be hence enabled to give a turn of character correspondent to the face of the country, and congenial to the warmth, and expressive of the brilliancy, of the climate.

The chilly regions of the north bestow  
Ice-crisped vales, and hills of endless snow;  
While chill'd by winds, and shaking to the frost,  
The warmer faculties are numb'd, or lost:

Whereas

Whereas in vertic climes for ever rise  
 The boiling spirits with the heated skies;  
 And every object that the soul inspires,  
 Glows with the sun, and shares its genial fires.

The artist may not only collect and treasure up for future pleasure and advantage, the different and rural images of that romantic region, may not only copy illuminations and shadows which cause uncommonly brilliant or dark reflections, and such as are not even to be gleaned from the delightful climates of France, of Italy, and Spain; but he will likewise, in the contemplation of a new world, have an opportunity to investigate not only its natural and its artificial productions, but likewise the dissimilarity of its inhabitants, in customs, manners, features, and complexions; and while the eye shall be delighted with the scenery around, he will improve his understanding, and add new ideas to the store-house of his mind.

Of the local advantages and disadvantages of country and of climate, I shall have

have occasion to speak at large in the progress of this work; and I must here anticipate the generous pardon of my readers for those observations which will naturally arise upon the subject, and for that contrast of climate and situation which I mean to draw.

I shall soon take up the negroes again, and follow them in those occupations which more immediately precede the expected harvest; and to a description of which if I have slowly, nay tediously, advanced, it has only been to take in some objects of connexion, which I thought might add variety to, and help to elucidate, my present subject.

The traveller who, in his progress through different countries, shall invariably keep the beaten road, can entertain but a very incompetent idea of their picturesque varieties; and from the uniformity of the scenes which he observes as he journeys on, he may be apt to entertain a

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very unfavourable and a very false idea of their extent and value.

The convenience of communication, and the ideas of safety, held out temptations for men to build upon those spots where both might be the most easily secured; and hence it is, that many villages arise in situations perhaps unfavourable to society, and in which even the most common necessities of life cannot but with difficulty be procured.

In the neighbourhood of commercial towns, is observed for miles a succession of buildings; and the transitory views which here and there a break affords, will hardly give any idea of the landscapes of the country.

Population is certainly destructive to rural imagery, in as much as the adornments of art are uncongenial to picturesque beauty. The refinements of life have no connexion with the pastoral world; they  
deform

deform the features of nature, and unsimplify, if I may be allowed the expression, the very air and appearance of her inhabitants.

The palace that swells upon the sight may for a time occasion surprise; but the painter will turn his eye with regret to the rock from which the stones have been disparted, or may lament those lately swelling hills which are now disfigured by the quarry.

In the most simple and confined views of nature there still is grandeur: in the most laboured ornaments of man, there is something little: nay, does not the most extensive building consist, comparatively to the general mass, of minute parcels, and of almost invisible particulars, and in which his labour and the futility of it are equally conspicuous? We will even suppose that they are not subject to the dilapidations of time—can we say that, on the contrary,

they are not subject to the caprices of men?

But grant these exceptions to be laid aside, we all know, by personal experience, that the most splendid and costly edifice does not strike us long. The eye is fatigued perhaps with a single view, and day after day may pass it by, not only with indifference, but without a look.

The views of nature for ever strike; and he who visits Matlocke, Dove-dale, or Vaucuse, will still find a succession of images that not only astonish from magnificence, but delight from variety.

He who has travelled in Flanders and in France, cannot fail to have reflected how very few picturesque and beautiful objects are to be observed from the public road, the uniformity of which, while it wearies the eye, fatigues and disappoints the expectation.

In

In his passage through the direct roads of communication between the towns of Bern and Basil, in Switzerland, the traveller not used to mountains would hardly think the country possessed those extensive views, over which the eye loses itself in giddy observation, and the broken features of which the most piercing sight cannot possibly distinguish.

To explore nature with enthusiasm, to discriminate her beauties, and to hang with delight upon her charms, we must make excursions at a distance from towns, to accommodate the population of which, the features of landscape have been disfigured and forced, the trees up-rooted, the ground excavated, and the quiet scenery made to resign its charms to the fastidious construction of art.

In every country, and in every climate, there are subordinate objects that rise into consequence from their locality, and from the sudden effect of their impressions; and

hence it is, that winding roads are more pleasing, as they have more variety than those interminable avenues which stretch, as it were, from one province to another.

To a lover of nature, the most minute, as well as the most gigantic of her wonders, have their particular charms; and these the artist will be unwilling to let escape him: but where every turn affords a recent image, the selection will require judgment as well as taste; and let his curiosity be ever so unbounded, or his execution prompt, this selection must be still confined, when compared to the infinite and increasing variety that is poured around him. Let not a man, therefore, flatter himself that his studies and his perseverance have exhausted the beauties of nature, or that, because he imitates, he can define their uses and their ends. To endeavour to rival them, is sufficient praise; to attempt more, would be not only presumption, but folly. The painter who was not able to give the expression he wished to a  
particular

particular countenance, very happily turned it aside; and while he thus acknowledged his incapacity, he made apparent his judgment and his taste.

There are many beautiful varieties of the rural kind that are over-looked, because they are obvious to every eye, and have been too frequently subjects of imitation; and there are others not selected, for the very reason that they ought, because forsooth they are uncommon; and hence to the vulgar eye may be deemed unnatural, and consequently may not please.

It is a known truth, that beauty may be copied from deformity, and that from an assemblage of productions in themselves unpleasing, may be formed an aggregate that will not only amuse, but delight.

The painter of landscape who possesses that enthusiasm which ought to be inseparable from his art, will not willingly let any striking object escape him: he will

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make

make the remembrance of it his own; and if he do not require it for immediate use, it may still contribute to a future purpose; and of which, without some item, he may ransack his memory in vain to produce the imitation; and may consequently, from this failure, introduce something in its place that will dissatisfy his wishes, and disgust his genius. He should never suffer, likewise, a sudden impression to forsake him: if any particular idea should strike his imagination, a very trifling sketch may fix it for ever; and these instantaneous sallies of thought are more valuable than the accurate refinements of laborious reflections: and this observation will likewise apply, with particular effect, to those who are in the habit of writing, and who frequently forget those notices which pass, like a transient cloud, across the mind.

How often does a man court in vain the inspirations of his muse, for a forcible, or even a simple and a tender expression;  
and

and which chance, at last, in some happy moment, may throw in his way; and which idea, thus acquired, may possibly occasion more reputation to the author, than the dull communications of labour and perseverance. The

*Ære ciere viros*

was long suffered to stand as an hemistich, which even the genius and the judgment of Virgil could not at the time complete; and the remainder of the verse, the

*Martemque accendere cantu,*

is acknowledged to be one of those rare felicities which, according to the respectable authority of Dr. Johnson, so greatly exceed all study and reflection; and of which the following lines of Denham may likewise stand as a very singular and happy example, and upon which the above-mentioned critic has bestowed a very warm and elegant encomium.

O could I flow like thee, and make thy stream  
My great example, as it is my theme!  
Though deep, yet clear; though gentle, yet not dull;  
Strong without rage, without o'er-flowing, full.

Of

Of this gigantic prodigy of literary perseverance and success, the most unassuming admirer of talents cannot possibly speak without a certain enthusiasm, and without attaching to his name the ideas of respect and reverence. To account for talents of such an amazing stretch, and in words correspondent to the magnitude of the object who possessed them, would be the height of presumption in this feeble work to attempt; but gratitude will speak and acknowledge the pleasure and improvement that even the most illiterate cannot fail to receive from the study of his elegantly varied and inimitable writings. That proper justice might have been done to them, he should have been the biographer of his own life, the historian of his own times, the critic of his own labours, and the eulogist of his own works,

He has not only given new words and force of diction to his vernacular tongue, but has stored it with ideas of a sublime and original cast, and of which his language,

guage, and his alone, was perhaps capable of the expression.

What English is, is due to Johnson's name,  
Who gave it clearness, energy, and fame :  
Then what shall be his glorious recompence,  
Whose *current* coin is *sterling* made by sense ?

What he says of Milton may be applied with equal justice to the powers of his own mind ; our language sunk, indeed, before him : but who shall rise to sufficient elevation of thought, or possess sufficient energy of expression, to display the honour which his learning and his taste have reflected upon this age and country ? If the transcendent abilities and accomplishments of a Burke, his superior perhaps in genius, and his equal in erudition and in judgment, and who was, from similarity of impressions, as well acquainted with the vigour of his head, as the virtues of his heart—if he, I say, be silent, and upon such a subject, what man shall dare presume a delineation of his character !

To a lover of nature, every object has its interest, its delight, its place, and use; nor does the painter, whose predilection for the sublime magnificence of the mountains with all their forests and rocks, their masses and their shades, despise the winding stream, the trickling rill, or those more humble ornaments of rural scenery, the shrub, the thistle, or the grass.

When the eye of reason wanders over the unbounded varieties of her charms, it may, and probably will, for a time, be arrested by the sudden view and steady contemplation of one great and prominent feature; but, as surprise does not continue long to awaken pleasure, it will turn with complacence and delight to objects of more near concern, and repose with pleasure upon the quivering of the trees, the verdure of the meads, and the riplings of the brook.

There is hardly an object of nature from which the reflective man cannot derive  
some

some impressions, whether they arise from the terrors or the tranquillity of her charms. When he considers the tremendous extent of that Power who excites the wave and fills the tempest, and who successively smooths the billows into a calm, and lulls the wind to sleep; when he turns his ideas from the magnificence of these impressions, and traces that power from its highest elevation to the very lowest object of its cares; and takes into the idea every thing that is destructive, that is useful, or that is pleasant; what a field does it not open for investigation, and what a theme for awe, for veneration, and for gratitude!

However great, however various and undefinable the wonders of creation may, to those of an unphilosophical cast, appear to be,—yet has the sovereign Architect of this stupendous frame endowed that atom, man, with powers not only to behold and investigate, but even to explain the most minute particulars of its component parts; and as the objects of nature are various, so are the faculties and pursuits of

the different creatures by which the earth is inhabited.

The man who delights in landscape, takes in a circuit of the heavens and the earth : he studies the sun by day, and the moon by night ; nor does the zephyr sigh unnoticed, nor the tempest sweep unheeded by. If he watch the dawning of the morn, and trace the light from its matin unto its evening beams, what infinite and enchanting varieties may not its reflections occasion ! varieties that pass in momentary change before the eyes, and which produce beauties perhaps that have been seldom or never observed, but which, when seen, may, from the regular order of the mundane system, be as enthusiastically examined, as philosophically explained.

It has often struck me (and I confess that I have been surpris'd at the partiality) that travellers in general are more fond of describing cities and towns, with the artificial adornments of the squares and  
streets,

streets, and the affected manners of the inhabitants, than they are of rural scenes and picturesque impressions, and the simple economy of a country life: and I think this observation so far true, that I do not recollect to have ever read a *picturesque* account of the most *picturesque* country in Europe; for, of Switzerland, I do not remember one that conveys any share of that enthusiastic pleasure which the contemplation of its scenes cannot fail to inspire. Some particular situations, more striking than others, may perhaps be noticed; but then they are only mentioned with that coldness so peculiar to the descriptions of those who either write from books, or what in the course of conversation they may have gathered from others; and not from those impressions which a lover of nature would feel from a personal contemplation of their rural charms.

Modern travel seems to be rather considered as a necessary pilgrimage to be undertaken

undertaken by those young men who are to become the possessors of wealth or titles, than as a school to form the manners, to instruct from political or relative situations, to diffuse knowledge by an observation of the commercial advantages, or the natural productions of soil and climate. The general mass of mankind, the ingenious artisan, the experienced farmer, the patient husbandman, and the much-enduring peasant, are over-looked in the more enlightened, but less useful, pursuits of the gay, the voluptuous, and the refined.

With what bustle and expedition is the young traveller observed to pass through a country, without looking to the right or left for objects of investigation, or without even condescending to make an inquiry if there be any curiosities, of nature or of art, that are worthy his attention !

The most classical, and thence the most interesting, scene upon the continent, is that of all others which is perhaps the  
most

most neglected; nay I know not by what fatality it happens (for badness of accommodation should not be an excuse for the suppression of curiosity and of the acquirement of knowledge), I know not, I say, by what fatality it happens (for I cannot mention this shameful neglect by any other name) that the best part of the journey between Rome and Naples is made in the night, and is that of all others in Italy, which is hurried through with the greatest precipitation, and of which the fewest notices are taken, and the least knowledge of the surrounding country is acquired.

From Rome to Pæstum there is something to interest our curiosity, excite our surprise, or melt us with compassion, at every turn. The Campania of Rome, although disfigured with ruins, and marked by the sterility of its lands; and the misery of its people, cannot fail to awaken ideas of its former power and inhabitants, and to inspire us with reflections of a melan-

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choly

choly cast, when we compare its present situation with what it was.

Who would imagine that the Pontine Marsh, a region of stagnant waters and disease, was once an immense plain of cultivation and abundance?

In the modern Terracina are still traced the ruins of the palace of Cæsar and of Adrian; and we cannot fail to sketch in imagination those hours of convivial ease and philosophic retirement, which were dignified by the wealth and urbanity of those distinguished characters.

At Mola, the classic traveller will naturally repeat those beautiful lines of Virgil, in the Seventh Book, which so tenderly commemorate his nurse, Caieta; and the distant fortress of which is still distinguished by this never to be forgotten appellation.

This place reminds us likewise of the fate of Cicero, who, in his journey from  
hence,

hence, was treacherously murdered by Popilius Lænas; whose life, as if to make the treachery more horridly conspicuous, he had saved by the pathetic weight of his transcendent eloquence.

In the observation of the remains of Minturna, on the borders of the beautiful and transparent Liris, the traveller who is fond of nature, and takes a particular delight in her quiescent scenes, cannot fail to be highly charmed: the objects, indeed, are few; but these are on one side magnificently romantic through the decays of time, and are pleasing on the other from the consequence of cultivation, and the comforts of abundance.

Between this river and the renowned and fascinating city of Capua, the devotees of Bacchus will hang with remembrance upon those exhilarating lines of Horace and Anacreon that so cheerfully commemorate the convivial powers of the celebrated wines of Falernum; of which the

Roman orators, as well as poets, have so frequently resounded the praise.

Who can refrain, when he beholds the venerable ruins of the theatre of Capua, from moralizing upon its present state, and from contrasting, in imagination, its decay with its former appearance, and with those voluptuous enjoyments that softened the savage minds of those troops who never before fought in Italy without conquest, and from the dread of whose incursions, and the vigour of whose arms, the Romans fled with despondency from every battle; and acknowledged in their discomfits, and their terrors, the superior and commanding genius of the judicious and intrepid Hannibal!

That the delights of Capua were the salvation of Rome, is an axiom laid down in history; and may remain as a datum, to prove that relaxation of discipline is the commencement of defeat; and that inordinate

dinate luxury, cannot fail to end, at last, in utter ruin and unavailing despair.

The countries of the Læstrigons and the Volsques, and the prominent and chalky cliffs of Circe, have all their particular interests in this delightful journey; and while, perhaps, the traveller is reflecting upon the grand ideas of those monuments of classic consequence which he has lately passed, his thoughts are instantly turned from the melancholy pleasures of antiquity to the actual and visible enjoyment of the paradise before him, the very moment that he descends into, and observes the culture and productions of that beautiful region which is so significantly featured in the expression of Campi Felici, or the happy plains.

Of the Appian Way, since the new road was made through the kingdom of Naples, for the accommodation of the present Queen, very little is to be seen in this journey; and however convenient and du-

rable these public works may have formerly been, yet the traveller will have but little reason to lament their loss, in point of convenience; and a sufficiency of them still remains in other parts of Italy, to satisfy the architect with the manner of their construction, and to fill the mind of the antiquarian with surprise at the labour and expence by which they were formerly completed.

I pass by the innumerable objects of curiosity in the neighbourhood of Naples, as many of them lay wide of the journey which I have faintly endeavoured to trace; and shall proceed immediately to the beautiful and majestic sweep of the Bay of Naples, which is shut in by the Island of Caprea, where the monster Tiberius passed a very considerable portion of his debauched and sanguinary life.

The town of Portici, built, as it were, upon the ruins of former cities, and still in dread of the impending terrors of Vesuvius,

Vesuvius, is of itself an object of curiosity, independently of the museum with which it is enriched : and the ruins of Herculaneum, and those of Pompeio, which fill the mind with sublime though melancholy impressions, are very striking and remarkable features in this romantic journey.

From Pompeio to Cava the country is most delightfully abundant in every thing that can administer to the luxuries of man : and from thence to Vietri and Salerno, the magnificence of the objects begins to improve at every step ; and the enthusiast, as he journeys on, beholds, in imagination, the views which have enriched the ideas of that great triumvirate of landscape-painters, whose pre-eminence in this charming science has never been contested, nor will ever perhaps be surpassed ; and that country must be surely enchantingly delightful, from which the pencil of Salvator Rosa took his rocks, the judicious Poussin his

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buildings

buildings and his shades, and the exquisite Lorrain his skies, his roads, his waters, and his trees.

When the traveller gains the point which first lets in a view of the bay and town of Salerno, he is impressed with one of the most sublime ideas of rural imagery that can possibly be described. The picturesque appearance of the buildings on one side, retiring into the earth as the houses seem to do in dread of the surrounding and impending hills, which are alternately varied by smooth and uneven surfaces, and in some parts naked, and in others covered with trees; and the whole prospect mantled over by a glowing haze; and, if you add to these effects, a winding shore, a picturesque mole, and a transparent sea, in which the magnificent objects of nature, and the more humble impressions of art, are combinedly reflected; these different particularities, taken all together into one view, cannot fail to astonish, and at the same

to

time to strike the imagination and to fix the sight.

From hence to Pœstum, the country becomes less cultivated, and changes the features of the landscape from the entertaining to the wild, until it becomes at last entirely a desert, over which are seen to wander innumerable quantities of buffaloes, which, being uncommon to an English eye, have the momentary pleasure of variety at least to recommend them.

The ruins of Pœstum, the ancient Posidonia, are seated in this inhospitable plain; and have more interest for the architect, than a sameness of columns, and those heavy and inelegant, can have for the lover of landscape, who does not behold any surrounding objects that can shew off to advantage, or give life and variety to the scene.

It is surely pleasing to an inquisitive mind, to study the manners, to explain the pursuits, and to ascertain the rural economy

mony of the different inhabitants, which, in an extensive range of climate and of soil, it is natural to suppose will fall in our way; as, from their appearance and their wants, their comforts or their cares, we may be able to fix a pretty just criterion of the poverty, of the wealth, or of the freedom of that country in which they have had the bad or the good fortune to be born.

There is not any part of foreign travel that conveys so much real amusement and instruction to the mind, as the opportunity and leisure of tracing, through their different channels, the gradations of society; of comparing the fortuitous advantages of elevated life, with that independency which is indeed short of titles, but above the necessity of commercial engagements, and sedentary employments; until, still continuing to tread the path of observation, we come down to the more humble pursuits of retired situation, and finish our researches at the hamlet in the desert, or the hovel in the waste.

If

If the clay-built cottage be sequestered, and be far removed from the noise of population, and the bustle of public pursuits, it is on the other hand unacquainted with the vicissitudes of fortune, and of the numberless inquietudes that spring from wealth; and although it shall be ignorant of its luxury, that poison of simplicity as it is the bane of innocent enjoyment, it may still with the necessaries possess the comforts of existence, and be consequently without its wants, its wishes, or its cares.

It is in the mountains and the glades, the vallies and the plains,—it is in the seclusions of private enjoyment, in the simplicity of unlettered ease and harmless meditation, that we are to look for, and to profit from; the sincere and unaffected manners of mankind; and from an imitation of which we should take our morality and example.

In

In crowded cities and commercial towns, the manners of the inhabitants take a turn from the artificial appearance, and the employments of interest that insensibly surround them. The man of rank, in some countries, looks down with contempt upon the merchant, the merchant upon the manufacturer, the manufacturer upon the artisan, and he in turn upon those subordinate links of that chain by which the various connexions of a life of luxury and dissipation are supported; and which rather foster unnatural and idle wants, than substantiate the comforts, and contribute to the happiness of a people.

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In the over-grown capitals of large and populous empires, simplicity of heart and integrity of manners are too often obliged to yield to art and cunning; and that countenance very soon becomes bronzed over with guilt, upon which the rose of bashfulness was seen to blossom and to charm.

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The pomp of nobility, the pride of descent, the boast of inheritance, and all the exterior advantages that wealth and titles can bestow, are too often considered by their possessors as attainments that preclude them from the severer studies, and exempt them from the painful mortifications of humble life, and too frequently make them believe that he who can afford to live in affluence should bid an eternal adieu to remorse and shame.

The ingratitude of public situation has been always a fruitful subject for the satirist, and is certainly more observable in courts; as the sphere in which it moves is there extensive, and as every sycophant is upon the watch to ingratiate himself with the rising sun, to worship the splendor of his beams, and to follow the warmth of his rays until they begin to decline, and to verge at last to darkness and to night.

The most expensive meal of luxury is vapid in comparison to the zest that ac-

companies the undebauched appetite of him who labours for refection, whose mind is satisfied with the gratifications of his natural wants, and who does not look for artificial provocations to stimulate his senses, to nauseate his stomach, and to induce with repletion, oppression of spirits, the languor of complaint, and the despondence of disease.

Do we not constantly observe, when either condescension or necessity obliges the man of wealth and ostentation to forego situation and its intrusive accompaniments, to partake of the humble and the heart-giving hospitality of subordinate condition, how readily he puts himself into, and envies the lot of him who gives ; at the same time that he feels himself humbled, although he be pleased, in acknowledging himself the person who receives ?

How much more faithfully expansive is the pleasure of him who, in the humble attendance of his harvests and his fields,  
beholds

beholds a wealthy landlord condescend to tread, with the cheerful expectations of game, his yellow stubbles, and his brown domains ; who wings the partridge or the grouse for amusement and for health ; and who makes the farmer the companion of his exercise, the partaker of his sports, and the willing receiver, as the cheerful dispenser, of the successes of his gun !

Does not the sportsman feel some pity in the mutilation, some compassion in the death, of the innocent and feathery tribe ; in the destruction of the pheasant, whose plumage reflects the glowing of the morning, the variety of the day, and the sober tints that presage the night ; in the death of the partridge, as inoffensive as its plumes are beautiful, and which adds one additional delicacy to a banquet which nature and which art had already perhaps but too luxuriantly supplied ; in the death of the hare, the most innocuous, as the most persecuted, of the animal kind ; and which, alas ! speaks in the hour of distress, and  
in

in the minute of death, in a voice which most pathetically resembles that in which the first cries and complaints of infant life are known ?

The exclusive power to destroy the beasts of the field and the birds of the air, is confined to ostentatious life, and unfeeling wealth ; while poverty has hence its envied advantages, and with the inability to do mischief and to commit murder upon the unoffending branches of creation, has its comforts in disqualification, and looks forward to good in the necessary avoidance of evil.

This long train of reflection, that may be thought foreign to the subject of which I have professed to treat, is still not inapplicable to the position which I am anxious to lay down ; as I do not even see, that in the progressions of picturesque and rural society, any thing will contribute to the advantage of the first, and to the pleasure of the last, that can, in any instance what-  
ever,

ever, partake of cruelty, in either the brutal customs; or the refinements of life.

I have been likewise induced to throw in these cursory reflections, as they will in some measure assist those comparisons of climate, and of country, which I intend, towards the conclusion of this work, to introduce; for it is only by contrasting the rural imagery, and portraying the picturesque appearances of those objects that embellish the face of nature, that we can form any idea of a just resemblance; and however customs and soil may vary the productions of human industry, yet there will still remain, in the great outlines of every region, some individual features which may serve as an opposition, and some of which I shall hereafter take the liberty to select, and, as far as my memory will serve me, to describe.

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It is now time (after the long digression I have ventured to make, and too many of

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which, I greatly fear, have been already intruded upon the patience of him who shall honour these poor remarks with his perusal)—it is now time, I say, to return once more to the negroes, and to their employments; and to push on their labours to the commencement of the crop, to which the impatience of the planter begins, at this particular season of the year, to be directed: but there still remains much to do, and many particulars to explain, before that impatience can be removed, and his wish be gratified.

About November, or so soon, in short, as the dry weather shall be set in, if the estate cannot spare a sufficiency of hands, a gang of hired negroes is engaged to fell as many acres of land as are necessary for a plantain walk, or for any other provisions of which it may stand in want, and which it would be prudent to enlarge every season, let the weather have been ever so favourable, and let the real abundance upon the ground be ever so great.

If

If the wood be heavy, and the situation be at all obvious to sight, and be likewise on the side of some aspiring hill, or lofty mountain, the noise of the axes which descend in regular cadence, wide echoing through the forests and the glades, the alternate singing and shouting of the cheerful labourers, and the wild accompaniments of fantastic rocks that rise like ruins on every side, and which force upon the imagination the appearance of towers and of caves, convey to the mind the magnificence of nature, and the consequent effects of the industry of men.

So soon as the wood shall be levelled to the ground, and the length of the trees divided, and the branches and the bushes collected together, a fire is made in different parts; and when the whole space shall brighten, particularly in the night, and the noisy flames shall spread around and ascend with smoaky columns into the sky; when, in short, the whole mass shall display one general and raging conflagration;

tion; the light may be observed at a considerable distance at land, and the mariner will congratulate its rays at sea: nor do I know any circumstance of rural imagery that is attended with more cheerful ideas than the effects of one element observed from another, and when the fire on shore seems to enliven the nightly sameness of the ocean, and to promise the wave-beaten vessel at once a quiet and a pleasing port.

After the eye has been fatigued, and the spirits exhausted, by an immeasurable prospect of water and of sky; when the same beauties of the rising sun are observed every morning, and the same enchanting glows are noticed at its decline; when the same moon-light silvers over the waters, or fades upon the sight, and the same planets rise and set, and the same host of stars is seen to glimmer in the heavens, and to glitter on the waves;—these objects, by a constant recurrence, become, however beautiful and splendid they may be, un-  
noticed

noticed by the eye, and unaffecting to the heart.

To break the uniformity of the scene above described, should a sudden light emerge like a rising star from some distant shore, or some large fire, like the ruddy rays of a setting-sun, dart forth its beams across the waste,—the mind is awakened from its languor, and a new idea enlivens and gives pleasure to the imagination, and rapture to the sight.

With the promise of land it likewise consoles the much-enduring and the patient seaman, with the termination of a long, at least, if not a dangerous voyage: but, should these treacherous luminations, instead of safety, decoy him into danger, his sufferings will be augmented by the melancholy reflection of seeing ruin before his eyes, when the objects of salvation are not far removed: and here the unhappy fate of the Halfewell cannot help confirming this melancholy remark, and of awakening terrors

which may for a time be buried in silence, but to awaken at the recital with never-failing sympathy, and a deep affliction.

It is now time for the overseer to enquire how the coopers and the sawyers have been employed, in splitting staves and shingles in the bosoms of the mountains; and to contrive a road of the most easy access and carriage, over which the negroes and the mules, and if possible the carts, may bring them out.

Having already described the particular appearance of the roads among the mountains, I shall consequently suppose that these necessary articles are deposited at the works, and that the sawyers have been likewise forward in their operations, and that the plantation is furnished with heading for the hogheads, with boards for the coolers, and with cogwood for the mills; and that the wheel-wrights have a sufficiency of every article that is necessary for the making and reparation of ploughs,

ploughs, of waggons, and of carts; that the bricks are ready for the hanging of coppers and of stills, the mortar made, the attendants busy, and the masons have cleared away the rubbish, and that they have already begun their work; that the carpenters are likewise industriously employed where their labour is required, and that every thing is in a bustle; that the scene about the house is alive; that impatience and anxiety are imprinted upon every countenance; and that every exertion is made by men, women, and children, to prepare for that harvest which is to reward, if their master be humane and generous, their continued toil and perseverance; or, on the other hand, should the seasons be unfavourable, which is to deceive their labour, and to disappoint the sanguine and perhaps ill-founded expectations of the planter.

In this interval between the final preparation for, and the actual commencement of, the crop, I shall just notice the

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general

general appearance of the country, as well the mountains as the plains; and shall dwell upon some circumstances that particularly distinguish the former, and enliven the latter.

The weather I suppose to have been for some time dry: the canes will of consequence very perceptibly, and from week to week, change their colour; the stems will become of a deeper yellow, and will glow with a stronger red; and the tops will put off their depth of green, and verge by degrees towards a russet brown; and if the soil shall be inclined to burn, they will soon be little better in substance than straw.

The Indian corn is now advancing to perfection, and its appearance very strongly marks the different periods at which the fields were planted. In some places it begins to shoot forth the blossom, and the pods begin to form; in others, the blossom begins to dry, and the pods to

fill; and in others the grain is ripe, and requires to be gathered, or, as it is called in Jamaica, to be broken in.

The Guinea corn begins at this time to shoot up into a lofty stem, to turn out a center-leaf, like the plantain (which I shall hereafter minutely describe), and anticipates the approaching ear, which at its first expansion is of a muddy green, and which, as it advances to ripeness, exchanges its colour from a light to a deeper brown, and turns at last, if suffered to remain long, very nearly to a black.

This particular grain is very apt to be lodged, and will consequently suffer from the bending or the breaking of the stalks: it is likewise particularly subject to the devastation of blackbirds and of pigeons; the latter of which, especially very early in a morning, come down from the mountains in such prodigious flocks, as to occasion a shade like that of a passing cloud; and as they

they settle in numbers upon the tops of the ears, they injure them by their weight, at the same time that they perseveringly devour, or shake out, the grain.

When the negroes break in the Indian, or the great corn, which is about five months in coming to perfection, they walk regularly along the rows with their baskets upon their heads, and collect the ears from those stems which lie the most convenient to their hands; and these stems produce from one to three pods, but seldom more. Their appearance among the canes, and the dry and yellow stubble of the corn contrasted with the vivid green of the young canes (which may be now from one to two, three, or four feet in height, according to the different periods in which they have been planted), have an effect which is strikingly singular, and which might produce an interesting picture, but which it would be extremely difficult to delineate with truth, and with judgment to represent.

I had

I had the picture of a holeing gang that was very naturally, and, with the corresponding complexions of the negroes, their expression of features, and variety of action, at the same time very elegantly, described: but this performance, as well as many drawings of value, were unfortunately swept away by that tremendous hurricane of which I have ventured, however feebly, to convey a particular and a just account.

This piece was the production of a man whose powers of painting were considerably weakened by his natural indolence, and more than all, by a wonderful eccentricity of character. His colouring was almost equal to that of any artist of his time; and the freedom and execution of his pencil were particularly apparent in his representation of negroes of every character, expression, and age.

The negro-driver, a very strong and happy likeness! was standing in front and  
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leaning upon his stick; the other negroes were digging cane-holes in a circular line, and round the base of a hill, immediately before him: they were all portraits, and the marks of their country were preserved in their resemblance. Some were partially clothed; and some, as far as decency would allow, displayed in their limbs the exertions of the body. Some had on hats, some handkerchiefs, and some had none. On one side was the water-carrier, a very picturesque and striking object; and behind her, a clump of plantain-trees, some of which were without fruit, upon some the fruit was shooting, upon some green, and upon others ripe. And, in short, the picture, either taken all together, or divided into parts, would have been highly interesting to the planter, and not have proved unacceptable to the admirer of nature, and to the man of taste.

The name of this incomparable, but unfortunate painter, was Wickstead; a name respectable in the arts, and which  
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has often afforded amusement to the public! Had he cultivated his profession with as much zeal as he displayed in friendship, and had he been as industrious as he was honest, he might have finished many works in Jamaica which would not only have added to the weight of his purse, but to the durability of his fame.

The Guinea corn is generally gathered in the month of January, or perhaps a little later: it is first cut down; the heads are then divided from the stalks; and the weakly negroes, or the children, as the heaps are raised by the abler hands, convey them to the carts.

This part of a Jamaica harvest will not admit of any variety, and must consequently remain without any further description. A parcel of negroes huddled together in the same employment, conveys not any idea but that of confusion; while the field itself, a brown stubble, with a few weeds, presents rather a barren, than a  
pleasing

pleasing appearance; a remark which will hardly hold good in the perfection of any of the other productions of the Island.

About Christmas, the cotton begins to ripen; and when the pods are in full blossom, the bushes upon which they grow have a very soft and beautiful appearance. The silky whiteness of its stalk, opposed to the verdure of the leaves, appears like snow that is left unmelted upon the meads; and when many acres are covered with this downy plant, and are beheld at a little distance, a representation not much unlike a winter field, arrests the eye, and gives a striking contrast to the scenes around.

The pods open in succession; and of course, when the negroes once begin to pick, they continue, if the weather be favourable, day after day to collect and carry them home, until the whole crop shall be gathered in.

The Jamaica cotton will bear but one or two crops; whereas that of other kinds, particularly

particularly the French, will continue to raton for many years.

The blackness of the negroes faces, contrasted with the beautiful white of the production above described, must naturally have a very singular effect; and, I think, would not displease the eye, if introduced into the second ground of a warm and extensive landscape.

Of this plant the process is clean and simple. It is first of all exposed to the sun and air, to dry; it is then turned over by sticks, and whipped: it is afterwards gined, and then hand-picked, and whipped again; and is, lastly, rammed into a bag, which is kept constantly wetted, and which, when filled, completes its operation.

In December, the first ships are expected to arrive from England; and those who stand in need of fresh stores, and are in want of provisions, anticipate their appearance

pearance with no small impatience and anxiety.

The different wharfs are now a scene of bustle and confusion: the boats passing to and from the different shipping, the wains that are continually clattering along the roads, the noise of the cartmen, the cracking of their whips, and the strings of negroes that are seen passing and repassing upon a variety of avocations; and, last of all, the groups of white people whom curiosity, friendship, or trade, assemble together; afford an agreeable scene of tumult and variety, to which the hurry and confusion of the attending waggons and carts, with the disorder of the cattle, the drivers, and the boys, do not a little contribute.

The traveller is now buried, wherever he passes, in successive columns of dust; his ears are continually saluted with noise and uproar; and the air resounds, as at the wharfs, to the rumbling of carts,  
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the creaking of wheels, and the thunders of the whip. The whole country appears to be alive; and the general activity and impatience seem to increase in proportion to the approach of the expected harvest; and which the farmer in England, and the peasant in all countries, naturally feel at the expectation of profit and abundance.

The sportsman now pursues the duck and teal, the snipes, the pigeons, and the quails;—the fisherman prepares his fly, and mends his net, to decoy the mountain mullet, or to entrap the calapavre and the snouk.

It is now that the overseer is anxious to collect the strength of the estate; that he sends out in search of the absent negroes, and is vigilant in bringing back to the plantation those that have absconded, or that have been long considered as run-aways; and the pursuit of these will furnish some descriptions of mountain parti-  
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culars,

culars, which I shall take the liberty to mention.

The negroes sent in this search are generally the most confidential people upon a plantation; and in this particular occupation, and patient pursuit, it is amazing the perseverance and sagacity which some of them have, by constant habit and perseverance, acquired.

One negro, and only armed perhaps with a cutlass or a spear, will range over the mountains, and continue perhaps his search for days, without any dread of those negroes who are idle from disposition, or thieves from principle; and who skulk amidst the shadows of the forest, erect their temporary huts, and kindle their fires, sometimes in one place, and sometimes in another; and who, after a short absence from the estate, become suspicious and artful, and make use of every feint to circumvent the successful endeavours of their pursuers.

putsuers. They sometimes climb the most lofty mountains, and ascend the height of the tallest trees, from which they throw their eagle-flight upon the distant scenes below. They sometimes hide themselves behind rocks, or bury themselves for days in caverns, and only issue out like wild beasts at night, to outrage and to thieve. They erect a hut and make a fire one day, upon some particular elevation, and the next they destroy the one and suppress the other; and thus they keep building and destroying until they flatter themselves that they have eluded any farther search.

They hang for a long time about the provision-grounds belonging to the estate; but so soon as they suspect that their depredations have been discovered, and that every exertion is made to bring them home, they retire further into the mountains, and sometimes lose themselves in the depths of the forest, or come out upon some plantation to which they are strangers.

They frequently hear the pursuer's voice; and while they remain concealed above, amidst the foliage of the trees, they observe him pass with caution underneath, and try to trace their foot-steps by the turn of a leaf, or the almost invisible print of their feet; and it is astonishing to see with what patience and skill he will follow this daily chase, and how certain he is in general of success. If he once overtake the object of pursuit, resistance, as it would be unavailing, is seldom made; but when it is, it is often attended with danger, if not with death.

In his solitary progress through the mountains, if he be early in the morning, his ears are stunned by the incessant gabbling of the crows, by the screaming of the parrots, or the soft and melancholy murmur of the doves; of which the notes, as well as plumage, admit of great variety. Some species fill the woods with two or three slow and complaining sighs; and some sink from middle tones into *one* profoundly

foundly base : some, more lively, with frequent and tremulous cooings, please the ear ; and others only now and then pour forth one querulous and soft complaint.

He now observes where a hut has been lately burnt ; and as he rakes the ashes, he still perceives the embers glow : the sight encourages him ; he lights his pipe, and flatters himself, from the above-mentioned signs, that his game is near at hand : he doubles his caution, and, like a sagacious hound, he tries each different path ; he observes where a leaf has been just disturbed ; he creeps silently among the bushes, and arrives at a spot where the sawyers have been lately at work ; and he hears and sees the heavy ring-tail pigeons sigh, or tumble, as it were, from branch to branch. A fire has been likewise lighted near ; and perhaps a board or two are left, upon which the fugitives reposed : he becomes weary perhaps, and dry : he takes some refreshment and a short nap, and again continues his silent way.

He now meets a party of Maroon, or free negroes, who are boar-hunting in the most inaccessible parts of the mountains: he informs them of his errand: they invite him to the chase, and offer their services the ensuing morning, in his toilsome avocation.

The springs are set in the path—a ring-tail is seen upon a bough—a Maroon fires his piece: he falls, and splits; for of these birds the expression may, without hyperbole, be used, at one particular season of the year, when they are almost a lump of fat, and when they are, in point of flavour, one of the most delicate viands upon earth.

Most of the wild pigeons in Jamaica confine themselves to the mountains; but this in particular delights to bury itself in the deepest glooms. It is seldom seen to fly, as its excessive fatness renders it inactive; and being more naturally fond of retirement than the other species of doves,  
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it is not so frequently heard to coo. If the fowler, from a long experience of the woods, and a knowledge of the particular trees upon which, at the different seasons, they are observed to feed, finds some difficulty in distinguishing them upon the summits of them—a person unused to this tedious and fatiguing sport, and of course unacquainted with their haunts, may traverse for days the woods in vain, and return disappointed in his expectations of the chase, although he may have passed by numbers without having seen, or had an opportunity to discharge his piece at, one.

It is hardly possible to conceive any thing more insupportably fatiguing, than a traverse of the hills and woods in this mountainous, and hence romantic, Island. Upon the first, the rays of the sun dart down with a heat that is almost scorching; in the last, the want of air is nearly stifling. The forests, indeed, are not much covered with bushes, nor are many tangling briars observed upon the surface of the earth;

but the ascents and descents are so frequent, and these are disfigured in many places with such masses of rock, or strata of loose and cutting flints, that the foot is apt to slip at every tread; and the negroes very often suffer from the bruises they occasion.

The sportsmen are still ardent in the chase—the dogs have seen the boar—they open with a sharp, unmusical din, among the vallies and the rocks; while the hunters shout, and deafen the echoes with their cries: they run confusedly here and there: one throws a spear; it glances his side, but does not wound: another discharges his gun, but misses his aim: a third, more successful, has grazed his ear, and made him bleed: he churns with rage, he gnashes his teeth, and is almost choaked with foam; he doubles his speed, and leaves his pursuers at a distance behind.

The

The dogs are now at fault: they try this path, but in vain; they run to another, but the scent is cold: a shout is heard—his footsteps are left impressed in the clay: the vallies and the hills again resound with the joyful and tumultuous cries: the track is no longer perceived, but the hounds have discovered his course: they wind him near: he leaps from behind a rock: they have him in view: he scours across the woods, and rushes upon the lair: he is for a while restrained: he collects all his strength: he rips up the surrounding branches that confine him: he breaks the withes, and grunting scours along. The dogs again overtake, and make him double: they now attempt to seize him: he stops; he turns; he fights. He rips up one, and kills a second: a lucky shot has pierced his shoulder: he feels the cutlass at his heart; he groans, he struggles, and he falls; he gnashes his teeth, sends forth a deep, indignant tush, and dies.

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The fatigues of such a chase are more to be apprehended than the danger; whereas, in the pursuit of this animal, in other countries, the danger is the most apparent.

This exercise being too violent for even the Creoles, must be insupportable to the exertions and the spirits of an European: and I have often been surprised to hear the rapture with which some sportsmen have spoken of this fatigue; and from one of whom, not having partaken of it myself, the above account was chiefly taken.

A shoulder of brawn is reckoned one of the delicacies of the country. I never saw but one served up to table in England; and that was sent as a present from Jamaica. The negroes smoak and dry this animal, from whence the pieces thus smoaked, obtain the appellation of *jirked bog*; and it is, when thus cured, a very savoury and a pleasing relish.

Those

Those wild boars that I have seen brought in by the negroes, or the parts of which I have occasionally received as presents, do not in, colour or in size, resemble those in Europe: they rather appear to be the progeny of swine that have strayed into the woods; and which, from having been once tame, partake of the habits of, and now become, wild, but are not, rigidly speaking, of the same species. I have seen them in a young state; but I did not perceive that they were marked by those stripes and colours which are observable in the wild pigs of other countries: and if there be really wild hogs in Jamaica, and such as are found in Germany and in other European countries, I can only say that I have not ever seen them.

The chase being over, we may accompany the sportsmen to some romantic and retired spot upon the mountains; to which, now loaded with spoils, they bend, oppressed by fatigue and parched with thirst, their slow and cautious, but not their silent way. They now alternately re-

count, as they wind along, the various exertions and dangers of the pursuit; each extolling his own industry and perseverance, or paying a compliment to his skill and prowess.

It is natural to those who are fond of the sports of the field, to dwell upon the disappointment, or to recount the successes, of the day: the active employments of life may be thus contrasted with the indolent; and an escape from danger will recall the pleasures of pursuit, and strengthen the spirits to undergo fresh trials, in the hope of fresh enjoyments.

They have now gained their place of rest: their burden is deposited; and they look for comfort after exercise, relief from toil, and cheerful pleasures after solitude and heat.

The companions of the chase are now become the partakers of its success: the adventures of the day are become a theme for  
the

the conversation of the night; and fatigue is lost in the bare repetition of what had occasioned lassitude.

The sportsmen have found a rock, which the hand of nature has scooped into a cavern, and which has been frequently perhaps the refuge and asylum of runaway negroes, and is still the abode of bats and owls. The entrance is something below the surface of the glade; the rocks open on each side to form a passage; a bed of sand runs shelving down, as if to receive with gentleness the weary tread; and to soothe the exhausted spirits by the coolness of its retreat, and to invite repose by the solemnity of its glooms.

The day is now declining, and the beams of the sun scarcely tinge the upper foliage of the trees; the lower regions are enveloped in a mass of shade, and the dews begin to drop their pearls around: the last faint murmur of the doves is sunk to silence, and the leaves no longer tremble  
beneath

beneath the pressure of their weight; their bills are tucked beneath the wing; and nature seems to hang delighted upon the approaching stillness of the scene.

The tusky boar is now produced, a fire is kindled at the entrance of the cave, and every hand is employed in the dissection of the game.

The spiral flames ascend around; the trees begin to catch the blaze, which now in partial light darts through the glade, and although it illuminates the entrance, has not yet found its way into the centre of the cave.

While their mess is preparing, they beguile the hour of impatience with the pipe, or conversation, and seem to be entirely sequestered from the noisy scenes of riot and confusion. The spot upon which they sit, the contracted view around, while it is the boundary of their reflections, is likewise the quiet centre of their enjoyments.

ments. The moon and stars are seen to glimmer between the nodding foliage of the trees, to silver over their leaves with a chaste and softened lustre ; and which leaves now sustain the chilly pressure of the dews, and which, now disturbed by a fanning zephyr, shake off their pearly loads, and wet with silent showers the docks and weeds that are spread below.

From the observation of the surrounding scenery which such an hour and such a night occasions, our ideas are soon turned towards the tranquil and the solemn impressions of the mind. We are insensibly carried, by the impulse of our ideas, from earth to heaven : the soul breaks out in gratitude ; and the voice endeavours to resound the raptures of the heart.

Whene'er the cloudless heav'n I view,  
 The silver mark, and soften'd blue,  
 The planets follow through the sky,  
 Or see the shooting meteor fly ;  
 I bless the Power whose fiat made  
 The morn to gild, the night to shade ;  
 And from the great reflection raise  
 My hands to wonder, and to praise.

The rural treat is now prepared, and appetite awaits on exercise, and health on both.

The repast continues long ; and, alternately enlivened by tales of mirth, or subjects of the chase, it draws on till sleep fits heavy on the eye-lid, and the cavern seems to invite them to repose.

I know not any amusement in Europe from which there results so much society and contentment, as that of the chase ; the exercise of which creates a natural appetite, and its fatigues induce a calm and uninterrupted enjoyment.

The sportsman, in the course of the day, ranges over an infinite variety of ground ; and the beauties of the natural and the pastoral world are obvious at every turn, and give relief to the impatience of the mind, at the same time that the body is preserved in vigour, and in health. Every object around him, for at least six months in

in the year, partakes of a picturesque, if not of a romantic cast; nay, every day in the year is somehow or other connected with his favourite pursuit.

When he rides out early of a morning, in either the spring or summer, for pleasure or for exercise, he may see his hounds breathed upon the velvet downs or ferny moors; may observe them, like a bed of moving tulips, cover the ground; and may listen with delight to the music of their tongues, and contrast their cheerful chorus with the solitary notes of the cuckoos that are heard around.

He now hallooos the wanton pack which are in full cry after the timid sheep, which bound over the ruts and endeavour to escape, and from which it is with difficulty that the whipper-in, or the more authoritative voice of the huntsman, can recall them.

He now sees them dash into the cover, and spread themselves among the bushes and the furze, from which the timid hare steals out, or from which the wily fox is constrained to fly. The sudden cry invades his ear; the hounds pursue, but after the first burst are recalled, as exercise, and not the chase, is now the object of pursuit. He accompanies them back to the kennel, encourages the timid, and rewards the bold.

His favourite horses come the next under observation: he sees them gallop over the marshes, or bound upon the lawns; and his impatience is awakened at the sight, and he anticipates the sport that he is soon to enjoy.

As the season advances, and the corn becomes ripe, he counts over the covies in imagination; but soon, too soon, he finds that the lawless poacher has disappointed his expectations, and swept away his pleasure with his game.

Partridge-

Partridge-shooting is productive of a great variety of pleasing scenes, which are considerably enlivened by the action of the dogs, the distinguishing lines of an open country, or the intersection of hedges, with all their rural accompaniments of gates and stiles.

The pursuit of the pheasant, the woodcock, or the snipe, does not admit, by any means, of so much picturesque variety. There is more sameness in the scenes; and although many of them may interest from situation, yet the constant succession of woods, of covers, and of marshes, do not afford sufficient discrimination of objects to make a strong impression upon the painter's eye.

Courting, setting, and fishing, are the most tame and inactive of the rural sports; and the two first will hardly admit of much rural scenery, but the last is particularly abundant in them; for wherever there be water and trees, a landscape may be made, if not to interest, at least to

please: and of this truth we have many instances in the pictures of Vangoyen, Ruyfdale, Dechar, and in short of many other Dutch and Flemish masters, which are particularly striking, not only from the finishing, but from the wonderful fidelity with which they have been copied.

Fishing in general may be rather called a lounge than an exercise, and the sportsman has ample time to take in the different prospects of the lake around him: he may sometimes shoot his nets into its depth of waters, and sometimes draw its contents to a wooded cove, or disemburden them upon a smooth and a sandy shore.

He now follows the liggur through the buoyant stream; and as he winds up its length of line, he feels the riggling eel at the end of the hook: it chucks; he pulls: it chucks; he pulls again, until at last, its exertions overcome, it resigns itself to the hand, and is the first promise of that sport  
which

which imagination has a pleasure to foretell.

He sees another float upon the stream, and he arrests with eagerness the buoy. He pulls the twine, and finds resistance: he tries again, and the exertions become more strong; he is all impatience, and all hope: he resigns the line, and the cork is no longer seen to float: he draws it back with gentle restraint: he lets it go: he tries once more to secure his victim: *he pulls: it struggles*; till at last, his impatience upon the rack, he gives a jirk: the hook breaks, and the perch escapes, and he remains for a time both silent and confounded.

He suddenly observes another float that sails with increasing velocity upon the waters: he rows with all his strength: he follows; he pursues; he overtakes: he stretches his hand with eagerness from the side of the boat: he seizes the buoy; and for some time he draws without apparent resistance the humid line: it suddenly runs

like lightning through his hands: he reaches over to prevent its escape: his impatience is very near plunging him into the watery element: he regains his clue, and finds resistance: he pulls again and the resistance becomes less: he follows his exertions with the same success: he now feels that a pike of uncommon size is attached: he becomes cautious: he draws by degrees: he gives his prisoner room to play: he runs away with the line: he has attained its length: he is restrained, and tries to disgorge the hook, or cut the twine; but, alas! his exertions with his strength now fail: he feels the compelling hand; and making one great effort of despair, he flounces into the water, and seeks the depths below: he rises again, but to sink no more: he floats a victim upon the surface of the lake, and fully indemnifies the fisherman for all his anxiety and toil.

On the banks of rivers there are many pleasing and sequestered spots that admit of the most beautiful and tranquil imagery.

The

The patient angler is seated upon a bank over which the majestic oak spreads out his verdant canopy of branches, and he beholds its form reflected in the polished bosom of the stream below. The rod seems bent beneath the waters, and the cork is hardly observed to form a ripple, so quiet is the element, and so still is every breeze.

He now observes the finny tribes with curiosity and caution explore the hook: one bolder grown makes a nibble, and darts like lightning away: the angler gently elevates and draws the bait: the fishes follow: they now begin to bite with less reserve: the cork is in a continual tremor, and for some yards around is surrounded with gentle ripples: at length a roach of a larger size flies at the worm, is hooked, and taken.

Sometimes he makes fast his boat amidst the sedges, and delights to hear the bull-rush murmur over head, or the hollow

boomings of the bittern, or the flutter of the coots and divers in the hassocks and the weeds; or moors his little skiff amidst a grove of willows, and, seated on the stern, in patient expectation awaits his game; or disappointed of sport, he explores his bow-nets, and hears the struggling of the fat and slimy tench that flutter in their wicker cage: he is pleased with this proof of the fertility of his waters, and foretells their appearance in another shape at the social meal.

For animation and for spirit, it must be acknowledged that hawking has its dangers and its charms; but so uncertain is this diversion, and so seldom has the falconer an opportunity to observe a flight in a country without meadows or inclosures, that very few parts in England seem to be so well calculated for this diversion, as the wilder regions of Scotland, and the barren nakedness of Germany, or Spain.

That

That extensive space of open country in which the town of Newmarket is situated, would be admirably well calculated for this diversion, were it not for the infinite variety of ruts by which every part of the heath is intersected, and which consequently makes the chace, if not dangerous, at least difficult to the horses, and incommodious to the rider, who, to be an observer of the sport, must have his eyes fixed above, whatever may be the inequalities of the ground below.

There are, besides, upon these celebrated downs, great quantities of rabbit burrows, many of which, being concealed amidst the furze, or the fern, the horse cannot possibly avoid; and hence very fatal consequences are to be often expected, and by which many a sportsman has sacrificed his life to his temerity. The dangers of the five-barred gate are trifling to this unseen and dangerous enemy.

There

There is certainly something that conveys a romantic idea in this amusement, if the hawk carries us back to the comparison of former times, when the ancestor of Errol unyoked his plough and fought, and acquired, in compensation of his courage, a stretch of land commensurate to the flight of this swift and intrepid bird.

The appearance of the country in which this exercise may be the most successfully followed, is generally barren of rural images, and consequently of objects fit for picturesque description: besides, if they were ever so abundant, the nature of the sport would preclude the sight from an observation of them; the eye, being constrained to pursue the flight in the air, has not sufficient opportunity to investigate those beauties which might otherwise be observed, at every turn, upon land.

The most animated, as well as the most noble amusement, is that of hunting; and from the manner in which it is pursued

fied in the different countries, a more just criterion may be obtained of the customs of men, than can be deduced from any other occupation whatever.

The character of a sportsman has been always considered respectable in every age and country; and the pleasures of the chase, as well as the dangers of pursuit, have been frequently described by the numbers of the poet, or in the epistolary correspondence of the most elegant and refined of the classic pens.

The chase of the hare is attended with great variety of rural imagery, more particularly at the beginning of the season, when the country is arrayed in autumnal, and hence its most picturesque, as varied, beauty.

The breaking of the morn, the feel of the air, the chirping of the crickets, the murmurs of the doves, the lowing of the herds, the bleating of the sheep, and the tinkling

tinkling of the bells, are the principal circumstances that give delight to the pastoral scene; and to this may be added, the pursuits of industry, in which the shepherd and the milk-maid, the farmer and the hind, have their different interests and employment,

The animation of the hounds, when they are first turned off upon the dewy heath, and cross the trail of the hare that has lately retired to her seat, and left the taint of her footsteps behind, communicates a corresponding spirit to the horseman and the steed. It is delightful to hear the first bell of this musical chime, and to see with what confidence the opening pack now fly to the cheering invitation, and with what glee they ring the different changes, until at last they consentaneously burst into one full and continued peal. At such a cheerful and harmonic chorus, our thoughts resign themselves to the irresistible impressions of the moment; and every idea is banished from the mind, excepting those  
which

which intrude themselves as exhilarating accompaniments of the tumultuous and busy scene.

Every part of the chase is attended with variety; it sometimes leads you to the tops of hills, and then compels you to descend with precipitation into the vallies below. You now bound along the beaten road, now gallop splashing through the rivulet, or dart like lightning through the trees and lanes. The horses legs now rustle through the stubble, or brush the dew-drops from the ferny heath, or start and leap here and there to avoid the pricking of the furze.

When the beagles are at fault, it is pleasing to observe the industry and perseverance of the different dogs, to distinguish the musical variety of their tones, and to hear the encouraging voice of the patient huntsman, who leads them backwards and forwards, and varies his casts until they regain the well-known scent, which, now overtaken, they lose, alas! no more.

The

The conclusion of the chase is the commencement of pain. The sensibility of the most unthinking must be awakened at the last cry and struggle of the poor, fatigued, and persecuted hare; must pity the untimely fate of the weeping deer; and must even feel compassion for the dying fox, and shudder at those pangs which an animal, after having afforded the pleasures and varieties of a long-continued chase, is destined to endure.

The pursuit of the stag and the fox, being more particularly the amusements of the winter months, will consequently lose much in point of rural impressions; but there is still to contrast, the more humble beauties of nature, the sublimity of heavy fogs, of chilling fleet, and pelting hail; of frozen torrents, crisped meads, and driving snow: and to these impediments of fickle and unfavourable weather, the impatience of the sportsman obliges him to be attentive, and by which he is naturally led in the morning to consult the vane; which  
not

not being favourable to his sport, he returns dissatisfied with the blowing north, or out of humour with the more obdurate and freezing east.

Those hours of refection and conviviality that follow the successes of the chase, are marked with good-humour and cheerfulness at least, if not contentment. No intrusive cares disturb the festive hour; no difference of opinion excites contention; and no wish or desire comes across the mind, but that of making the pleasures of the day contribute to those of the night.

If the sports of the field have their charms in the exhilaration of the spirits, the animation of the mind, and the exercise of the body, — the pursuits of the farmer are attended with local pleasures and a calm enjoyment; and every occupation that is dependent upon this calling, is productive of rational delight, and conducive to a regular and a permanent health.

The

The farmer is a natural character: he is an appendage of the soil; and every thing he does, has a connexion with the pastoral life, as every object around him is either simple and picturesque, or romantic and sublime. He wants no glowing epithets to pourtray the blushings of the morning, nor the coolness of the breeze; he sees, he feels, and breathes his God in every thing around him, and is grateful for those unpurchased gifts of innocence and health which bless his family and crown their toil. He inhales not indeed the perfume of the rose and the fragrance of the jessamine, through a distillation of their sweets; but they salute his senses with those natural essences which the sun expands, the zephyr conveys, and the dews renew.

He watches the dawn of day with impatience, that he may count his flocks and number his herds; that he may be thankful for their increase, and bless the bounteous hand that has given success to industry,  
reward

reward to perseverance, to the body vigour,  
and contentment to the mind.

He observes the rising sun, and by some  
occupation or other he continues to follow  
its beams: he sees those beams expand,  
decline, and fade; and is conscious that he  
has, with a patient hand and a cheerful  
heart, accompanied their progress through  
the day, and has only resigned his labour  
because it has merited the reflections of  
nature, and the repose of night.

Thrice happy is the envied Farmer's lot,  
His oak-brown shadows, and his straw-built cot!  
When under cover of the rift he lies,  
He hears the zephyrs 'midst the branches rise,  
And marks the dew-drops, as they glitter near,  
Confess, in every pearl, Aurora's tear.

Now as he wanders forth from bow'r to bow'r,  
To catch the fragrance of th' enamell'd flow'r;  
He feels, while meas'ring his paternal feat,  
Soft nature's carpet bend beneath his feet;  
And all around him hears the vocal quire  
Awake the echoes, and the groves inspire.

His calm domain the waving harvests spread;  
Here fallows stretch—there patient yokes are led;

A a

While

While on the downs the nibbling flocks are seen  
 To tread the narrow path, or bleach the green:  
 And now, as if his labours to beguile,  
 The playful sun-beams on the landscape smile.  
 Health to his cheeks its blushing rose hath lent,  
 And each indented dimple speaks content.

The mornings pass with all their blushes crown'd;  
 The noon succeeds—the landscape glows around:  
 Eve's sober tints with mild reserve are spread,  
 And night descending veils the mountain's head;  
 And by degrees a darker mantle throws,  
 Inviting labour to a calm repose.

Sweet is the sound, when, stealing through the trees,  
 The ear acknowledges the midnight breeze,  
 That wakes the essence of the mossy rose,  
 Or vagrant perfume, when the jess'mine blows;  
 That lifts the odours that impregn the gale,  
 From the green-tufted lilies of the vale;  
 Whose silver cups, with shining dews made bright,  
 Like varying opals glitter on the sight,  
 Which, as they fall, the thirsty glow-worms steal;  
 Then shoot out stars, and where late hid, reveal.

The farmer now retires to genial rest,  
 His wishes sated, and serene his breast;  
 While sleep and silence on his couch attend,  
 And pleasing dreams their kind assistance lend.

Of the farming in Jamaica it is impossible  
 to speak in terms that will at all accord  
 with:

with the above description; nay, it is hardly possible to paint a more striking contrast: and it is by comparison only, that any description can rise into value, or interest those in the delineation of a country, who have no concern in either its superfluities or wants.

The life of an English farmer, if contrasted with that of a planter in Jamaica, will be found to be an occupation of pleasure and content; and independency at least, if not abundance. If he be industrious, he has but trifling risks; if fortunate, his gains are many. He may complain of the unfavourableness, but cannot with justice exclaim against the concussion, of the elements; for the most heavy storms in England are zephyrs when compared to the hurricanes that rage between the tropics: and the losses which the former occasion are gains (by antithesis) when opposed to the turmoils of nature that intimidate the inhabitants of the torrid zone.

The farmer rents his land at an under-value, and is allowed an equitable profit upon his industry and cultivation: the planter occupies his own, and must stand to mismanagement and loss; and what is still more lamentable, he must often submit to the misconduct, and sometimes owe his ruin to the villainy, of others. Of all the cultivators of land, the planter is the most humbled and the most dependent.

A farmer enters into his engagements with his eyes open, can consequently detect abuses and correct them; but the planter must not always see with his own eyes, he must overlook those faults which might become criminal were he to endeavour to mend them.

The property of the latter depends entirely upon live-stock; a tenure precarious at best, and which naturally involves anxiety and loss. If a favorite negro die (and favorites are known to be the most  
common

common victims) the humanity of the possessor may be awakened by privation, and hence a double interest will arise; and that which may not excite the feelings of others, cannot fail, in a very essential manner, to affect him; and misfortunes which human nature cannot prevent, our reason should instruct us with submission to bear.

The farmer views his waving crops of grain  
Bend to the fickle, and enrich his plain.

The golden sheaves in meet proportion stand,  
Obedient to the hind's disposing hand.

He counts his certain treasure, and, content,  
Extolls the Pow'r that hath such blessings sent.

The planter toils, with sickness and with care,  
His fortune to augment, or loss repair;  
But sees with weeping eyes, and broken mind,  
His hopes all sunk, and scatter'd by the wind;  
Nor knows, alas! how patience can endure  
Those bitter pangs which patience cannot cure:  
And, oh! t' increase his heavy sufferings, those  
Who should compassionate, insult his woes.

I shall have occasion to examine here-  
after the relative situations of the planter  
and the merchant, and shall endeavour to

explain their mutual dependencies, views, and conduct: and in treating a subject of so delicate and so personal a nature, I shall hope that candour will direct my pen, and impartial truth prevent its transgression of justice and decorum.

The stranger who rides through a large tract of country in the course of a day, cannot fail to observe a continual succession of objects.

Some estates afford not much variety of prospect, and some the most romantic and extensive views. Some plantations consist entirely of level land; and some, of successive, but gentle elevations; and others, of rising hills and lofty mountains.

Those that abound with water, present the most pleasing variety of scenes; for without water, let the view be ever so extensive, the landscape cannot be said to be really perfect: whereas the banks of a river, without any distant object, will, with its own accompaniments of bushes, docks, and

and weeds, afford, if not an interesting, at least a pleasing picture.

Were the heat of the climate less oppressive, I can hardly conceive any rides that would be more delightful in any quarter of the habitable globe, than those which may be taken by a man of observation and curiosity in the Island of Jamaica: nor do I know any part of that island in which more pleasing, or more magnificent views can be observed, than within a given portion of miles around that spot upon which it was my unhappy fortune, for so many years of my life, to reside.

Were a real enthusiast to examine this circuit of land with a discriminating and a painter's eye, he would observe such alternations of light and shadow, such playful reflections, and such variety in wood, water, and in rocks, in mountains, vallies, and in plains, as would even make amends for the fatigue and heat with which it would be attended.

In the rainy seasons, when the rivers are full, and the torrents roar among the mountains, when the landscape glows with the most bright and vivid dyes, and all the productions of the earth seem to acknowledge, by their freshness and their growth, the genial influence of the sun, and the sustaining moisture of the shower—in the rainy seasons, I say, the pastoral world has its peculiar variety of charms.

We will suppose that the stranger, before he begins his matin journey, saunters out about a hundred paces from the habitation of his host; that he looks with astonishment and delight at the extensive sweep of country, that the eye takes in with clearness and precision, around him; that his sight is caught with the magnificent appearance of the mountains, over which the sun begins to peer, and the gloomy forests of which are now conscious of its lumination. It wanders next over a pleasing succession of minor elevations,  
till

till it stretches at last across an immeasurable plain, the confines of which are only lost in the horizon.

He now begins his journey, accompanied by the planter, through the winding lane, from which the logwoods fend the sun, and through which as yet no freshening breeze is felt to wander, till he comes out at once upon a level plain, upon which he inhales the freshness of the morning, that seems to come with chillness from the neighbouring mountains, and upon the sides of which he sees the vapours disperse, the sun-beams glitter upon the rocks, and tremble amidst the foliage, or illuminate the branches of the trees.

He now beholds the numerous herds of cattle that leave, with a slow and majestic tread, the different enclosures; the lowings of which are interrupted by the bleating of the flocks, that now shake the dew-drops from their fleeces, and seek with patient expectation the distant plains,

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while, as he journies on, the melancholy cooings of the different doves, and the cheerful warblings and varied melody of the nightingales, salute the ear at every turn, and encourage him to hang upon the surrounding scenery with double observation and delight.

The humming-bird, the most beautiful as well as the most small of the feathery tribe, is frequently heard to beat with a continual and drony murmur its little wings; is now observed to dart its slender bill into, and to extract with momentary taste, the blossoms of the orange or the lime; or to hang suspended, and for a time stationary, in the air, to steal the odours from the logwood fences that happen to be in bloom; or is now seen to flit by like lightning, and to return again with drowsy hum, for a fresh supply of rifled sweets; while its various and splendid plumes, that glow with blue, with green, with purple, and with gold, afford a never-ceasing

ceasing alternation of the most rich and vivid dyes.

It is astonishing to hear the noise (if I may be allowed the term) that is produced by so very small, so very diminutive a body; for of this bird there is one species that is very little larger than an humble-bee; and this is by far the most beautiful of the kind, and is not a third so large as some of the other description that are more numerous, and are consequently more frequently seen.

The plumage of the smallest of these little creatures partakes more of a golden green than of any other colour, and very much resembles those lively plumes that are seen to glitter when the sun illuminates the back of a peacock.

The nest is made with particular art and beauty: the workmanship is, indeed, not less exquisite than wonderful, and seems to be in a very especial manner adapted

adapted as a residence for this interesting and lovely bird.

The egg rather resembles an oblong pearl, than any other natural production to which I can compare it: it is more white, indeed, and I think still more delicately beautiful.

It is preferably fond of building upon the tamarind, orange, or bastard cedar trees, and principally, I suppose, as they are particularly abundant in shade.

The nest is seated at the spur of a small branch, and almost at the extremity of the tree: a leaf like an awning is bent over it, to protect it from the rain and heat, and to render it less obvious to sight; and it is extremely difficult to discover by its motions the situation of its nest, as it seems to be possessed of cunning, or rather of instinct, in a reverse proportion to the diminutiveness of its frame.

The

The tail-feathers of the smaller species of this little bird are short in comparison of those that are observed in the other kinds, some of which are three or four inches in length: and of these larger sorts the plumage is by no means so rich and glowing as that of the diminutive creature above described; nor do they interest so much from size, from the captivating beauty of their form, from the minute ingenuity of their nests, and from other little circumstances which, in the smaller humming-birds, I have frequently had an opportunity to examine.

I have sometimes seen not less than seven or eight of these lovely and busy little creatures hovering together over the same branches of a tamarind-tree; and of the smaller species I have watched the mother to, upon, and from, her nest; have peeped into its contents, while she was fluttering over my head; and have seen it at last, instinct overcoming fear, dart down upon its eggs, brood over its little treasures, and  
look

look with affected confidence upon its beholders. The breeze was fighting amidst the branches, and lifted its almost invisible body with a gentle motion up and down. When it was frightened from its nest, it was painful to observe its uneasiness, as it would be difficult to describe its terrors: it would have been inhuman to have prevented, or even to have delayed, its return, and cruelty in the extreme to have despoiled its nest, or to have used any means to attach its beauty, or destroy its life.

Beneath the lucid wave the dolphin glides,  
 And stains with varied hues the liquid tides:  
 Upon his back the gaudy sun-beams glow,  
 To mark this wonder of the depths below:  
 But thee an earthly gem the eyes behold,  
 Of brighter colours, all be-dropt with gold;  
 Thus di'monds, though of small dimensions, rise  
 In value, from their lustre, not their size.

The little ground-doves, by far the most diminutive of the pigeon kind, are seen at every step to fly before him, and to woo, with an uncommonly strong and melancholy note, the attentions and affectionate

fectionate returns of their lively companions, who now wander backwards and forwards, and across the roads, or hop from branch to branch, and seem conscious of the intended courtesy, and affect the coquette in every motion, and retire at last, with seeming coyness and by stealth, to the gloomy shadows that, extended near, are the happy asylums, as the silent witnesses, of their vows and loves.

The active spaniel threads the ditches and the lanes, and flushes the snipe, and disturbs the crab-catcher and the coot, which wing with heavy flight and legs extended their awkward way, or skim the surface of the mantled pool, then dive with clamour into the waters, and waddle into the protecting sedges and the grass.

It is hardly possible to travel in any part of the lowlands of Jamaica, without being constantly saluted with the noise of the aquatic birds, which, however harsh their notes may be, are still objects of nature,  
and

and ought not in a tropical landscape to be passed by unobserved. The very lizards and the snakes, of which there are many kinds, have likewise some interest in the eye of him who travels not only for amusement but instruction, and who can find, in the disgusting as well as pleasing objects of creation, wherein to praise the wonders of his Maker, who, while he provides for the formidable alligator in the lagoon, and the destructive shark in the ocean, is equally beneficent to the fly and worm.

The lizards and the snakes in Jamaica are uncommonly numerous; but of either kind I do not recollect to have been perfectly acquainted by sight with more than three sorts; and of these different reptiles I believe all but one of the last species to be entirely innocent. I was once very severely bitten by a little brown snake, which wound itself round my leg, and which did not inflict its wound until it was accidentally trodden upon; and while  
it

it lay wreathing under my foot, it made two or three repeated and painful attacks: I could not put my leg to the ground, and my face began to turn black, when I was comfortably relieved by a friction of sweet oil and laudanum. I should not have mentioned this trifling incident, did not a vulgar error prevail that makes this reptile of every species entirely harmless.

The scorpions in Jamaica I think larger than any I have seen in other countries: their bite is proportionably severe; but I never heard of any fatal accidents resulting from it.

The centipides are of an astonishing size and venom; and one was taken in Kingston, not long before I left Jamaica, that was mentioned in the papers to have measured thirteen inches.

Of the wasp, the sting is, I believe, as terrible as that of any insect in the coun-

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try;

try; and there are but few people who have not witnessed its malignity.

The shark, though a dangerous and hence a formidable animal, does not partake so much as the alligator of the sublime. Its form rather disgusts, than his dimensions can occasion surprise: but the make of the last, that seems coated for strength, and whose scales and colour may deceive, conveys with the idea of danger the lures of deceit, and only floats an apparent log upon the surface of the water to surprise its prey, and hurry it, unsuspecting danger, to the depths below.

It is amazing how bold and adroit some negroes are in the capture of this fish. We are told that the Africans will attack the crocodile with knives, and prove victorious in the combat. The negroes in Jamaica will take the alligator without a weapon, will enclose it in their arms, and force it on shore, without fear and without assistance.

They

They are the inhabitants of lagoons, or sleepy waters, and are so voracious that they will dart at dogs that incline over the banks to drink, will attack mules, and have been even known to fasten upon negroes; one melancholy instance of which is still recorded in St. Elizabeth, and which happened in the town of Black-river.

I was possessed, through the kindness of a friend, of two of these animals; one of which measured about three feet, the other from six to seven. The latter I used frequently to bait with a favorite spaniel; and I was surprised at its activity and the ease with which it turned, as I had been taught to believe that its body, on account of the contraction of the scales, was not pliable, and consequently not capable of motion. I could scarcely touch its tail with a stick before it snapped it with its mouth; and after the least exertion it emitted an efflu-  
vium of musk which might be perceived for a considerable distance around.

Though ravenous beyond description in its native element, it seems, out of water, to subsist, cameleon-like, upon air; for all the time I had it under my own eye, and committed it to the care of others, I did not hear that it once attempted to eat; and during its passage to England, which it survived (but it unfortunately soon after died in the River), I could not understand that it was ever known to take any nourishment; and how it could support itself without such a call and revival of nature, it is beyond my ability to explain.

It is well known that turtles will not only live for a very considerable length of time without food and water, but even out of the last element; and those that I purchased at the Grand Caymanas, in my voyage from Jamaica to England, increased very considerably in weight, notwithstanding they were not given any sustenance during the passage.

We

We had many of these animals, and of different sizes, on board; some of which, for want of casks, were laid upon their backs, and continued in this posture upon deck for many days; and although some of them were bruised, yet they very soon recovered after they were removed into the puncheons, although two or three, from their superior dimensions, could with difficulty turn around in their places of confinement.

They were taken out of the casks every morning; their eyes were rubbed, and fresh water was started into the puncheons, by which they seemed to be immediately revived; and it was easy to observe, that they daily acquired, not only health, but spirits.

If they remain for any time floating upon the surface of the water, it is a sure sign that they are not well; so, on the contrary, when they keep at the bottom of the

cask, it is a symptom that they are in perfect health.

I think I could perceive a difference in their breathing when they were in the water, and when they were out of their well-known element ; for when they came upon the surface to blow, there seemed to be a real pleasure in the natural inspiration ; but when they lay upon their backs, they were used to bring out such heart-felt sighs as were really affecting, at the same time that their eyes were literally suffused with tears. It was melancholy to look at them, and at the same time to be conscious of their destination : and well, indeed, might the poor creatures sigh and weep ; and much may luxury be despised and execrated for entailing such a length of suffering, and causing to die a kind of living death, this much-enduring and (for itself unfortunately) delicious animal.

What would the simple and unlettered Bramin, or what would the Pythagorean philosophy

philosophy say to this cruel instance of refinement and gluttony ? No man, I should hope, could kill a turtle without pain, or behold its long-continued convulsions in the pangs of death, without sacrificing his appetite to his humanity.

The excessive cold upon the banks of Newfoundland will sometimes kill a great number of them in a single night ; and if fresh water be imprudently given to them in the River, it will be often found to be equally destructive.

Of turtles, the best are supposed to be those which are caught in the neighbourhood of Jamaica : they are not so large as those that the fishermen bring off for sale from Port Antonio in the island of Cuba, but their fat and flesh are reckoned more rich and delicate.

Those that weigh from eighty to one hundred and fifty pounds, are generally preferred ; but under three hundred weight

they have seldom eggs, which are particularly delicious: nor can their difference of sexes, as I have been assured by the turtlers with whom I have conversed, be, under a particular age, with certainty distinguished; a circumstance, if a fact, that is well worthy the investigation of the naturalist!

That they will live and thrive in fresh water, is undeniable. I have kept several in ponds in England, and one in particular for many weeks. If it did not feed upon the small fry, with which it was stocked, it was certainly used to chase them; but I am disposed to think that they frequently served it at last as food.

The hawk's-bill turtle is large and coarse: its meat is not only dry, but very strong and unfavoury: its scales are more valuable than those of the green turtle, and afford, among the Caymanas, and elsewhere, a species of trade.

The

The land turtle of Jamaica are among the principal delicacies of the Island; and there are but few people who have resided there long, who do not give them a decided preference. They are excessively fat, and when large the females are often full of eggs; and when they are in perfection, it is difficult to conceive any viand more rich and nutritive.

Of the provisions and other delicacies of the country, I shall have occasion to speak hereafter: I shall therefore return to the planter, whom I suppose, accompanied by the stranger, to be arrived upon the plantation, and that the overseer who superintends the conduct of it, attends, as is the custom, to accompany him in his circuit of the various pieces, to make him acquainted with the situation of, and his expectations from, the different canes; that he tells him about what time he expects to be able to begin the crop, and that he accompanies him to the works, and shows him how forward the masons are in hanging the copers

pers and the stills (which operations being made under cover, and very far from being picturesque and pleasing, I omit without description); and passes at last to the employments of the carpenters, coopers, and wheelwrights, and satisfies him that the mill will be finished in time for the grinding of the canes, the trash-houses repaired, and ready for the trash; and, in short, assures him that nothing will prevent the commencement of the crop a few weeks after Christmas.

As this is the principal, or rather the only festival that the negroes have in the course of the year, it will consequently require, when I come to treat of their manners, their customs, and amusements, a very minute description; and more particularly so, as they then appreciate their resources, display their wealth, and are ambitious of excelling each other in the expences of their apparel, and in other costly and extravagant ornaments.

The

The planter now directs the cattle to be brought out in review before him; he enquires into their ages, and examines their conditions: the lame and the emaciated are driven from the herd, the superannuated are removed to the fattening pastures, the weakly are sent into proper enclosures to recruit, the wounds of the mules are explored and dressed, the diseased are sent into the mountains; and in a short time rest and plenty will restore the weak, confirm the strong, and anticipate their health and exertions throughout the labours and the vicissitudes of a wet and a distressing crop.

He is now invited by the overseer to partake of refreshment, and lounges in the piazza, or saunters to the garden, or overlooks his sheep and goats; and then, perhaps, if he be of an active disposition, will ride into the mountains, and examine the situation of the negro-grounds; and in his return will learn what particular piece is intended to be cut first, and to serve as a  
trial

trial of the yielding of his canes; to the perfection of which he now looks forward with impatient hope, and too often with an over-sanguine expectation.

The pause between this period and the beginning of the harvest I shall beg leave to fill up with a resumed description of those negroes whom I left reposing in the cavern after the fatigues of the chase; and to whom it is now time that I should return, and accompany in the pursuit of a timid creature, who can hardly support the fatigues of the body and the overwhelming suspenses of a broken mind.

The sun-beam now awakes the forest, the matin zephyrs sigh amidst the trees, and shake the dew-drops from the foliage around. A purple ray is seen to illuminate the massy shade: it plays upon the entrance of the cavern, and by degrees begins to gild its fretted roof and mossy walls: it now trembles upon the negroes, and reminds them of their duty: they

they acknowledge the summons: they start from the sands, illumine their pipes, and set forward upon their search of a forlorn and miserable outcast of human nature, whose wrongs, perhaps, are still bleeding upon his skin; his neck and legs excoriated by the impression of irons, his body emaciated by hunger, or made loathsome by disease, and his mind weighed down by terror and despair. His feet inactive from fatigue, are cut by the flints, or bruised by the rocks over which he has been constrained to pass; while continued watchfulness, and want of sleep, have made him falter at every step, and glad to resign his sinking frame to the first inviting stone that may be near to pillow his declining head; and where, sighing to the wind, and weeping to the dews, he resigns himself with fear and despondency to his approaching fate: he feels himself exhausted and overcome; and while nature is descending with heaviness upon his lids, he is overtaken; and finds himself, when roused, again a captive and in chains,

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and obliged to urge on with a hasty and a painful step that body which his languid spirits and his feeble limbs could hardly sustain before.

After insult, cruelty, and all the miseries of mind and body to which his degraded and his mortal state is subject, he is either hurried to a distant gaol and to work beyond his strength, and is suffered to remain without bodily raiment, or meat and drink, the most obvious sustentations of life, or at least in such small and irregularly administered proportions as is hardly sufficient to keep nature from a threatened dissolution; or he is confined in a dark and unwholesome room upon the plantation, and there to lie (as I greatly fear has formerly been too often the case) unvisited, neglected, and forgotten, until resentment shall relent, or his labour be required; and after which he is brought forth from darkness unto light, and sometimes to forgiveness, but more often unto punishment.

Some

Some runaway negroes escape their pursuers, and find an opportunity to leave the Island ; and some associate themselves with Maroons, or with free Mulattoes, of which there is a lawless and unprofitable swarm in most of the parishes of Jamaica,—or with those white people who are idle from habit, and thieves from principle, and who make a point to decoy the vagrants wherever they can be found, to give them harbour in their settlements, to which it is dangerous to repair, and who enrich themselves, and till their grounds, by an illegal detention at least, if not the ultimate appropriation, of the property of others.

Those slaves who merely abscond, and return in a few days of their own accords, are seldom severely punished, but are on the contrary, particularly if it be the first delinquency, more commonly forgiven : but if the crime be constantly repeated, there would be injustice in forgiveness, as there would be example in punishment ; and even in the worst case, the

sufferings of guilt, although they may awaken, will not be often found to outrage humanity,

In the above description of the bodily endurance of a runaway, and a retaken slave, I rather allude to the accounts I have heard, than to any facts which have fallen within my own personal experience. The conduct of negroes is now, I should hope, for the credit of humanity, by no means so rigorous as it was formerly supposed to be : the overseers are better instructed in morals and education ; and I do not doubt but the imputed and exaggerated examples of cruelty will wear gradually away with those impressions of benevolence and pity which it has been so long the favourite pursuit of the English nation to introduce, and which the Creoles are endeavouring not only to second, but substantiate : and much of the glory of this reform is certainly due to the philanthropy of that benevolent and respectable body of people, the Quakers ; and  
to

to the private zeal and exertions of Mr. Granville Sharp, whose name will be ever dear, to humanity and virtue.

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I have now brought my remarks as far as that season in which our religion not only allows, but recommends an intermission of labour; to that season in which it was formerly the custom of relatives and friends to divide their confidence and affection, to open the hand of charity, and to display the virtues of a simple, rather than of an ostentatious benevolence of heart.

At this happy period of the year it was usual for connexions long separated to meet again in amity and peace; for parents took delight in this annual assemblage of their hopes, in whom they were to live over again their days, and for whose future welfare and happiness in life they now planned their visionary schemes; and while hospitality presided at the board, the sounds of pleasure and contentment en-

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hanced the feast, and sanctified the public joy.

The doors of the manor-house were by prescription opened: the smiles of welcome met the stranger at the threshold, and conducted him to his seat; for modesty was then a sufficient introduction to the honest and the open heart, which not only received its own happiness in that of others, but was grateful to the source from whence the envied ability of doing good, so largely flowed.

“A merry Christmas” was in former times a pleasing, as a proverbial salutation: but now the manners of the world are changed, and luxury has trampled upon simplicity, and hospitality resigned its place to pride and ceremony. The country mansion is closed at this season of the year; and the remembrance of former mirth and conviviality lies buried in those vaulted domes which were used to smother with abundance, and resound with music.

As small communities are too apt to affect the manners of the great, the customs that prevail in capitals will consequently find their way into the provinces, and from thence into the more distant dependencies; and hence it is, that in Jamaica this festival is hardly kept; or if it be remembered, it occurs with a sameness and frigidity by no means correspondent to that warmth of hospitality which is observed at other times to glow with so much fervour.

You observe, indeed, the white people riding from one plantation to another, and returning perhaps overcharged with liquor at night, when it is doubly incumbent upon them, at such a season of riot and inebriety, to keep themselves sober, and to preserve a proper authority upon the plantation.

The negroes at this season of the year are in continual hurry and confusion; nor do they ever seem to form any regular

plans for the conduct or amusement of those days which they anticipate with so much pleasure, and which they generally consume with as little thought.

Their occupations and diversions seem to arise from the impulse of the moment; and many pass their time in dull and sedentary inaction, who were previously determined to give themselves up to song and dance.

The first day of this recurring holiday they generally spend among the mountains, in collecting provisions for their own use, or in raising money to expend again in dress and trifles at the neighbouring town: the more wealthy sell poultry, or kill a hog, (by which they make a considerable profit), or give an entertainment to their friends, or make a public assembly, at which every person pays a stipulated sum at his admittance.

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The mulattoes likewise at this season have their public balls, and vie with each other in the splendour of their appearance; and it will hardly be credited how very expensive their dress and ornaments are, and what pains they take to disfigure themselves with powder and with other unbecoming imitations of the European dress. Their common apparel, at other times, and mode of attiring, are picturesque and elegant; and as the forms of the young women are turned with equal grace and symmetry, and as their motions in the dance are well calculated to show off their make to the greatest advantage, the most pleasing attitudes, as well as the most various inflections of body and of limbs, may be taken from them when thus engaged in their most favourite amusement.

At Christmas the negroes upon neighbouring estates are divided, like other communities, into different parties: some call themselves the blue girls, and some the

red: and their clothes are generally characteristic of their attachment.

The plantation negroes always make a point to visit their masters at Christmas, when they array themselves in all their finery: they divide themselves upon the different estates; and those belonging to one property go down in procession together; and those of another, though belonging to the same master, detach themselves in like manner, and proceed with music and singing to the place of their destination; at which, when arrived, and after having made their salutations, they begin the song and dance, for it is almost impossible to do one without the other; and the very children, so soon as they are able to walk, at the first sound of the cotter (which I shall hereafter explain) put their little elbows in motion—their feet shortly follow, and in a little time the whole body seems to be in action.

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I have often been surprised to observe how infinitely more the negro appears to be affected by music and by dancing, than the white children in Jamaica; and for this fact I know not how in any manner to account. The same customs are daily before the eyes of both; nay, the Creole infants are suffered to associate too much with those of the negroes: they converse and play together, and are too apt, as they grow up, to copy their manners, and to imitate their vices: nor do I think that the parents in general are sufficiently studious to prevent their forming connexions with those whose bad example may, and frequently has, conducted to ruin.

When the negroes are assembled at Christmas in all their finery, and select a spreading tree, under the shadow of which they assemble, they certainly form many very picturesque and pleasing groups; and though a general resemblance of colour and features may be thought at a little distance to prevail,—yet the most

common observer will, upon a near inspection, perceive a very striking discrimination of both.

Some negroes will sing and dance, and some will be in a constant state of intoxication, during the whole period that their festival at Christmas shall continue; and what is more extraordinary, several of them will go ten or twelve miles to what is called a play, will sit up and drink all night, and yet return in time to the plantation for their work the ensuing morning: many, indeed, are consequently laid up in the hospitals; and too many, I fear, fall victims to continued watchfulness, fatigue, and inebriety.

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Having now made my general remarks upon the country, and my particular observation upon the sugar-cane, throughout every stage of its precarious culture antecedent to its perfection of growth;—I must beg leave to be indulged in representing

senting the situation of a planter whose hopes may have been blasted by the influence of the winds, or whose expectations upheld by a happy escape from their too frequent destruction.

Of the tremendous hurricane of 1780, I have already very particularly spoken; but I cannot help relating in this place, the general dread, in the months of August, September, and October, of this expected calamity, when the temper of the air, the appearance of the sky, and the instability of the weather, distract the observer with terror and suspense, and make the imagination look for a deluge in every cloud, and expect a tempest at the daily commencement of every breeze.

It is not easy to describe the gloom that is suddenly cast over the mind immediately after the destruction that is occasioned by this terrible and overwhelming visitation; when the feelings are most sensibly hurt, and the sufferer made desperate

rate by the melancholy reflection of being possibly driven at once from comfort to distress, and from wealth to penury, if not to want.

This dreadful scourge that rages with so much violence between the tropics, and for the frequency of which, particularly of late, no philosophical satisfaction hath been given, always descends at that period in which the plantations smile with promised abundance, when every production of the earth is fresh and vigorous, when the mind is buoyed up with expectation, and the heavy labours of the year are drawing to a conclusion; when the apprehensions of danger seem to be past, and the fears of the planter are superseded by a confirmation of his hopes: when his mind is in this state of hopeful safety, then comes the destructive blast to disperse his comforts, curtail his means, and sink him down to irremediable ruin, and unavailing despair.

How

**How terribly sublime is the idea of the Almighty, when he**

**Rides on the whirlwind, and directs the storm!**

**When he sweeps away with the wings of famine and disease, of desolation and of death, the labours, the expectations, and the hopes of man! when he overturns his own works, disfigures nature, and seems to reduce to a second chaos what he lately clothed with verdure, and gilded with the smiles of abundance and the prospects of peace!**

**When God descends in vengeance on mankind,  
Unfloods the deluge, and unchains the wind;  
Bares his red arm, and dreadful in his ire,  
Heaves the strong bolt, and throws the blasting fire;  
O'er heaven's broad pavement bids the thunder roll,  
And shakes with heavy peals the trembling pole;  
Makes from their central base the hills to shake,  
The woods to tremble, and the rocks to quake;  
Or bids the surges of the ocean roar,  
Rise into mountains, and o'erwhelm the shore;  
What mortal shall abide these dread alarms  
Of dread Omnipotence, severe in arms,  
With storms and famine in his awful train?  
Who shall abide, who shall his wrath restrain?**

**The**

The visitations of Providence in plagues and tempests, are not severely felt by one third of the inhabitants of the earth:—how much have *they* then of thanks and gratitude to that benevolent Power who has diverted from their knowledge and their thoughts, those scourges of the comforts, and of the lives, of the human race; and with the safety and salubrity of milder climates, does not only confirm abundance, but establish peace!

Such is Britannia's sea-encircled Isle,  
Where plenty blooms, and harmless pleasures smile;  
Where all is quiet, happy, mild, serene.—  
A verdant carpet clothes each rural scene;  
And temp'rate breezes, wheresoe'er they sail,  
From dewy wings disperse the fragrant gale.

There, safe from winds, the lowly hamlet stands,  
And plenteous harvests bless the reaper's hands;  
While in their wattled folds the shepherds keep,  
Nor dread the sweeping storm, their fleecy sheep:  
The patient herds, beneath the hawthorn bow'r,  
No deluge fear, but calmly wait the show'r.

No vertic sun that happy region burns,  
No hurricane with Virgo there returns;  
But equal seasons every year divide  
The peasant's labour, and his wants provide.

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The many advantages which this much-favoured country enjoys over those regions which are yearly threatened with, and which are so frequently devastated by, the unresisting hand of Almighty vengeance, should make its inhabitants particularly grateful for the blessings it enjoys, and for that benevolence which has established safety in the place of danger, which makes the crops return with annual abundance, and which gives prosperity to industry, and peace to wealth: but discontentment and complaint seem, alas! to be interwoven with the depravity of our nature; and they who have the most reason to bless the bounties of fortune, are the first to abuse its powers, and the last to make the hand of charity and beneficence accompany the extension of their means.

The worldly man is always heard to murmur and repine at the dispensations of Providence, and will exhibit more spleen and misery at a trifling disappointment that has befallen himself, than he would feel  
compassion

compassion at the utter ruin and annihilation of another's hopes.

So soon as a man begins to bend under the pressure of misfortune, every error, be it even of ill-founded generosity, or unsuspecting confidence, is immediately magnified, by the illiberal and the unfeeling, into crimes and delinquencies of the blackest die: no tenderness is felt for the weakness of human nature, no compassion for losses, and no allowance made for those miseries which have happened, and which, as they could not have been foreseen, it was impossible to prevent.

If a man of pride and wealth would only consider his situation and prosperity as advantages not immediately derived from merit, but as the mere dependencies of chance,—would only consider that while he is the object of external envy, he may be at the same time the slave of internal remorse; that his vanity may be humbled by insult, and that his name may be  
branded

branded with reproach ;—if he would only reflect, when prosperous, to what he may be reduced in the adversity of fortune, and in that state to what mortifications he may be subject, what ingratitude he may experience, and with what rigour be dealt with ; how much he may be deceived in the profession of friends, in the attachment of dependence, and how taunted and reviled at for the obligations he has conferred ;—if he would reflect upon, and treasure up, all these possible changes and caprices of fortune, in his mind, he would learn to content himself with that medium which is too low for envy, but too exalted for contempt ; he would learn to appreciate his own feelings, and to look for the applause of his *heart*, and not to the superfluity of his *means*, for his substantial comforts, and for the duration of his wordly bliss.

To *this* active monitor, *this* consolatory approver of a generous, as the rigid chastiser of a dishonourable and cruel, action,  
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the poor and the rich must ultimately look for applause or condemnation: and this is a treasure of which those who may have dispossessed their fellow-creatures, not only of the goods, but of the necessities of life, can never deprive them; for this is a treasure which neither the moth nor the rust doth corrupt, nor thieves break through and steal.

No man can be truly said to enjoy happiness, who cannot compassionate the miseries of others; nor can he be said to merit comforts, who does not wish to do justice to the honest claims and pretensions of those who have suffered in fortune or in feeling from either the principles of goodness, or the impulse of service. Assistance in life should be relative and reciprocal, and should depend upon circumstances, and not be always measured by fictitious wants and merited distress; and upon these data the planter and the merchant have full scope to reflect, and may consequently draw their particular inferences;

rences: but I greatly fear that the easy acquirements of the latter will too often make him neglect the dependent situation of the first.

It often happens that commiseration will go farther to relieve the sufferings of the mind that is pressed down by the visitations of Providence, and hence an unmerited affliction, than pecuniary aid and the promise of addition, which may soften indeed the rigour of natural wants, but which will at the same time oppress with a double load the sensibility of the delicate, and make perhaps more desperate the desponding, mind.

It is in the steady and assuasive voice of patient and disinterested friendship, which blends the sigh of pity with the examples of fortitude, and which teaches a man to feel his situation, and which at the same time shews him the necessity of resignation, and points out the folly, if not the impiety, of despair—it is in sentiments and in impres-

sions like these that we are to look for comfort under afflictions, and to flatter ourselves that they are intended for our future good: but friendship, alas! that has its attachments in the confidential exchanges of thought, and which instructs one soul to melt, as it were, into another, to partake its raptures, or divide its cares, is not to be sought for in trouble, nor found in grief; and true, indeed, is that axiom which says, That a friend in need, is a friend indeed.

A man who is really and deeply actuated by this divine propensity, will sacrifice his own interest, his own comforts, his own time and pursuits in life, to acquit himself with delicacy of this attachment: but where are sentiments so pure, so noble, and so virtuous, to be found? Not in the prosperous range of unfeeling wealth and insipid ostentation, not in the throng of crowded cities, the bustle of business, and the unmeaning confusion of public life; but it is to be met with, if met at all, in  
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the milder habits and quiet intercourse of humble society: it is to be met with in private seclusion and confidential enjoyment: it may be experienced and found to glow in all its fervor in the houses of shame and in the dungeons of despair, where real affection will be proud to follow misfortune, and will apportion its own happiness to the perseverance of humanity and the willing sacrifice of personal ease, to the comfortable relief of a relative, or friend.

Let not an innocent man, therefore, look to the melancholy and the suffering objects around him, with humiliation and distrust; but let him consider that his present abasement may lead to future triumph; and that the worldly and unfeeling wretch who has rewarded favours with ingratitude, and who is conscious of injustice in persecution, may be obliged, amidst the horrors of a death-bed repentance, the revilings of the world, and the upbraidings of his conscience, to acknowledge, in the last struggles of humanity, and when the retrospect of his life would only present him with a  
black

black and a disgraceful picture—he may then, I say, be forced to acknowledge that the vengeance of Heaven has been only tardy, to strike a deeper blow: he will then find how unavailing is that wealth, the unjust accumulation of which will add double pangs to his dying hour; and he will be too late convinced that as he cannot carry it with him to the grave, it will remain upon earth a memorial of those means by which it was infamously acquired.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.



